

THE
Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIX.

From 7th JANUARY to 24th JUNE,

1899.

HONGKONG:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE "DAILY PRESS" OFFICE,
WYNDHAM AND D'AGUILAR STREETS.

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7th January to 24th June, 1898.

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THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIX.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1899.

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BIRTH.

On the 3rd January, 1899, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 3, Mosque Junction, the wife of Mr. ROMUALDO MARIA DE SOUZA, of a son.

DEATH.

At 63A. Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, on the 26th December, 1898, EMILY A. JUKES, the beloved daughter of the Rev. A. JUKES, Rector of West Hackney, London.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The American mail of the 23rd November arrived, per P. M. steamer *Shantung*, on the 1st January (39 days); and the French mail of the 30th November arrived per M. M. steamer *Lao* on the 1st January (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 31st December says:—An expedition fitted out by Mr. Pitchard Morgan, M.P., leaves to-night for Szechuan under command of Mr. Burn-Murdoch and consists of four English and American engineers and a Chinese secretary, suite, and servants. Mr. Pitchard-Morgan, daughter, and secretary leave for England per steamer *Prinz Heinrich* on Sunday, the former in order to take up his parliamentary duties on the opening of the House.

The two steamers for the German line on the Yangtze, of which Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. are to be the agents, are not being built at home, as stated by the *London and China Express*, but in Shanghai by S. C. Farnham & Co., Limited, and they will be about the size of the *Tehsing*, but with all the latest improvements. S. C. Farnham & Co., Limited, are also building two large hulks, of steel, for the use of these steamers, and a steamer for the West River for Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. —*N. C. Daily News*.

The *China Gazette* has had an interview with Mr. Pavloff, ex Russian Charge des Affaires in Peking, by whom it has been authorised to contradict the reported demand by Russia for the Mitao group of islands in the Gulf of Pechili. Mr. Pavloff states there is no truth whatever in the report. Mr. Pavloff also stated that the report that the Russian Government intended to open Port Arthur and Talienshan as free ports is untrue.

It is stated, says the *N. C. Daily News* of 30th December, that it has been arranged at Peking between the French Minister and the Tsungli Yamen, that Pahsienjao district, which includes the New Cemetery, shall be added to the present French Settlement. How land belonging to the citizens and subjects of other Powers within the new Settlement limits will be affected by this extension, appears to be not yet determined, but strong objection will be made to its passing under the control of the French Consular authorities.

A Calcutta despatch of the 12th December to the *Rangoon Gazette* says:—Americans having acquired a taste for green tea, which is now chiefly supplied by China, and the crusade to push Indian and Ceylon black teas in the United States not having met with the success anticipated, a few Indian planters have turned their attention to the manufacture of green tea for the American market. The first consignment of this tea has now arrived in Calcutta and has been valued by one firm at five annas per pound, and by another at six annas per pound nominal.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, in reporting the arrival of Princess Henry at Hongkong, gives the following programme of the intended movements of the royal pair:—"Shortly after Christmas Prince Henry will proceed in his flagship the *Deutschland* to Bangkok to return in the name of the Kaiser the visit that the King of Siam paid to His Majesty two years ago at Berlin and Potsdam. Originally it was arranged that the Princess should meanwhile remain at Hongkong, but the latest orders are that preparations are to be made on the *Deutschland* for her to accompany her husband. In February Their Royal Highnesses will visit the German possession in the North. For March a long stay in Shanghai is planned and from that port various excursions will be made. A visit to Japan was also intended, but in reply to an enquiry the Japanese Government gave it to be understood that they were not in a position to guarantee the personal safety of the Prince, so the official visit to the Mikado's realm has been postponed. H.R.H. the Princess will therefore proceed on her return journey direct from Shanghai, again travelling by the *Prinz Heinrich*." We presume our contemporary is well informed, but the statement made in the above as to the inability of the Japanese Government to be responsible for the personal safety of the Prince is remarkable. The recollection of the unfortunate attack made on the present Czar of Russia during his visit to Japan can hardly be considered a sufficient explanation of the position assumed by the Government of that country on the present occasion. Attacks on sovereigns and princes have been made in almost all countries, but it is not assumed that no country in which such an attack has occurred is never again to be visited by royalty. If that were the case royalties would have to stay at home.

The reception of the Legation ladies by the Empress Dowager, which took place on the 13th December, should have taken place at an earlier date but was postponed, we learn from the *Echo de Chine*, at the request of M. Pavlov in order that Madame de Giers might be present.

A naval court of inquiry into the circumstances attending the fire on the British ship *Troop* on the 14th December was held at Yokohama on the 20th and 21st before Mr. A. C. Bonar, H.B.M. Consul. Considerable evidence was heard, at the close of which the Court retired and returned the following finding:—"The Court finds that the fire which occurred on the vessel *Troop* on the morning of the 14th December clearly resulted from the wilful act of some person or persons unknown, who caused the sails lying for repair in the between decks to be saturated with some inflammable substance, and who set fire to them in two distinct places. The person or persons who so wilfully caused the fire formed part of the ship's company of the *Troop*, but that there is not sufficient evidence to show the guilt of any particular person or persons, and that in the opinion of the Court it is the duty of the master or any other member of the ship's company to take every possible step to bring the offender or offenders to justice." On the 23rd December Emil Gorig, the boatswain of the ship, was charged in the British court with causing the fire and was committed for trial.

Lord Charles Beresford arrived in Hongkong from Canton on the 31st December in a Chinese gunboat kindly placed at his disposal by the Viceroy. On his way down he, at the Viceroy's request, inspected the Bogue Forts with a view to reporting on them to the Viceroy. While at Canton Lord Charles, who was the guest of Mr. Mansfield (the Acting Consul) visited the Arsenal and other places of interest in the city. On the 3rd Jan. his lordship addressed a public meeting, promoted by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, in St. Andrew's Hall. In the course of his speech he urged the importance of reorganising China's Army and advocated an alliance between Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and Japan with the view of preserving the integrity of China and the open door. The following day his lordship visited the docks at Kowloon in the morning and afterwards attended a semi-private tiffin given in his honour by the China Association. On this occasion he explained why he placed army reform in the first place. He admitted, he said, the importance of financial reform, which in fact included most other reforms, but the first step to its realisation, he contended, must be the formation of a trained and disciplined army by which the policy of the government could be enforced, as to attempt to introduce financial reforms under the existing conditions would lead to disturbances all over the country. His lordship left Hongkong on the 5th January in the *Coptic*, the members of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce and a number of other gentlemen seeing him off. On his arrival at Shanghai he will be entertained to tiffin. From Shanghai he will go to Japan, where he will remain for about a fortnight, after which he will proceed on his homeward journey in the *America Maru* to San Francisco. He expects to reach London towards the end of February or the beginning of March.

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR.

(Daily Press, 31st December.)

The year just closing has been one of feverish unrest in the politics of the Far East. When opened the partitioning of China seemed to have commenced, Germany having annexed Kiaochau and Russia being installed at Port Arthur, while rumours were in the air of French designs upon Hainan and Great Britain was credited with the intention of securing compensatory advantages. The French designs resolved themselves into the annexation of Kwangchowwan, a port on the coast of Kwangtung, while Great Britain secured a lease of Weihaiwei, the naval stronghold in Shantung province which had been held by the Japanese as security for the payment of the Chinese indemnity. Throughout the year Russia has been active in Manchuria, where she is constructing a line of railway to connect with the great Siberian line, and the belief that that country was being transformed into a Russian province and might ultimately become a closed market so far as non-Russian trade was concerned caused considerable irritation and anxiety amongst the British mercantile community, which was reflected in Parliament and in the home press, the action or non-action of Lord SALISBURY's Government being severely criticised. The agitation has borne fruit, inasmuch as Lord CHARLES BERESFORD has been sent out to study the question on the spot and focus the views of the British communities at the various ports. Upon this mission his Lordship is still engaged. Now that the reconquest of the Soudan has been brought to a brilliantly successful conclusion and the hands of the British Government are freer than they were it is anticipated that a stronger policy will be adopted in China and that the work of reforming and reorganising the Government and the army and navy of that country will be taken in hand. The necessity of reform has been amply demonstrated during the year. Local risings have occurred in various parts of the empire, notably in Kwangsi and Szechuen, which have materially interfered with trade; several missionaries have been murdered; and in September a Palace revolution once more placed the notorious Empress Dowager in power and again reduced the Emperor to a position of tutelage. For some time His Majesty's fate was in doubt and strong suspicions that he had been poisoned were entertained. The young man is still alive, however, and is allowed to appear on ceremonial occasions in company with the Empress Dowager, the idea of supplanting him on the throne having apparently been abandoned. The nominal reason of the Emperor's being deprived of effective power was that he had handed himself over to the guidance of a reforming visionary named KANG YU-WEI, at whose instigation decrees were daily being launched of a revolutionary character, but the real explanation is believed to have been a contest for power between rival cliques, the reform question being merely the shuttlecock with which the game was played. The Empress-Dowager is greedy of power and self-aggrandisement, but is said not to be opposed to changes for the benefit of the country so long as her personal interests are not prejudiced thereby. Certain it is that no attempt has been made to interfere with any of the railway schemes that have been launched. Concessions for lines from Peking to Hankow and from Hankow to Canton have been obtained by Belgian and American syndicates respectively and survey parties are now actively

at work on both. The line from Peking to Paotingfu is under construction, the Russians are pushing on with their lines in Manchuria, the Shanghai-Woosung Railway has been opened during the year, and concessions for various other lines have either been granted or are in course of negotiation, amongst them being a line from Tientsin to Chinkiaug, one from Shanghai to Hang-chow, and another from Kowloon to Canton. Work on all of these will shortly be in course of prosecution, and with the railway and telegraph in operation throughout the Empire, carrying with them ideas of progress and enlightenment, reform in the administration must inevitably follow, whether it be effected by peaceful means or by violent revolution. In the meantime the weakness of the Chinese Government is such that it has been found necessary by the Powers to send strong guards to Peking for the protection of the legations and the foreign community. An event significant of change, however, was the reception by the Emperor and Empress Dowager on the 13th December of the wives of the Foreign Ministers. When one reads that foreign ladies have been received in the Palace at Peking and that they were conveyed through the grounds on an electric tramway one is compelled to believe that the hands of the clock of progress move a little, even in the Chinese capital. The conditions surrounding the reception appear to have been in every respect satisfactory, and the reports of the function that have appeared in the press have placed the Empress Dowager before the public in a more favourable light than she has hitherto appeared in. If the reception was accorded with that end in view it must be regarded as a clever stroke of policy.

The most notable event of the year has been the evolution of the United States into a colonising and Imperial Power. The friction with Spain arising out of the Cuban rebellion reached its culminating point in April, when war was declared. The American squadron on the China station, which had previously assembled at Hong-kong, left towards the end of that month for the Philippines in search of the Spanish fleet, which was found at Cavite on the 1st May and utterly destroyed. Earlier in the year the Philippine rebellion had been renewed and the blow the Spanish power received from the destruction of its fleet by the Americans materially aided the Insurgents, who, moreover, received direct countenance and support from the victors. On the 13th August, a strong military force having in the meantime arrived from the States, the Americans took possession of Manila, the Insurgents acting in concert with them. As a result of the peace negotiations in Paris between the Spanish and American representatives the Philippines were definitely ceded to the United States, the latter agreeing to pay \$20,000,000 gold therefor. The Spanish West Indies have also passed under American control, and the wish of the Hawaiian Republic to be incorporated with the States having at last been complied with, the close of the year finds America in possession of a great colonial empire. Cuba no doubt will shortly be granted independence under a native republic, but the future of the Philippines is still shrouded in uncertainty. The Insurgents have declared an independent Republic, with AGUINALDO as President, and they have shown creditable skill in organisation and administration, and have proved themselves far from the savages they have in some quarters been represented to

be. An impression prevails, however, that it would be dangerous to grant the islands full independence, both on account of probable internal dissensions with their resulting anarchy and also on account of the possibility of the country being hereafter annexed by some other Power. The probable solution of the difficulty will be the granting of autonomy in the internal affairs of the islands under American protection with American control of foreign relations. Whatever decision may be arrived at as to the details of the form of government, however, the peaceful development of the rich resources of the islands is now assured and the volume of trade flowing to and from the Far East will thereby be vastly augmented and the opportunities for the profitable employment of capital increased.

In Hongkong the year has not been unsatisfactory from a commercial point of view, the depression in the ordinary import trade and the unusual accumulation of stocks with its concomitant tightness of the money market having been more than compensated for by the activity engendered by the American operations in the Philippines, the prosperity of our local banking institutions and industries, the growth of the Pacific trade, and the opening up of new lines. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in understood to have made phenomenal profits, the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company has exceeded its previous high water mark, the sugar refineries have been actively and profitably employed, and the growth of the smaller industries of the place has continued, one instance of which may be mentioned in the supplanting of Japanese matches by matches of local make. The extension of the Kowloon frontier, which has been secured during the year, may be expected not only to materially add to the safety of the colony from a military point of view but also to contribute greatly to its industrial activity. Amongst other advantages of the new acquisition the colony will be able to make its own bricks, of which the increasing building operations render a larger supply necessary every year, instead of being dependent upon Canton, where the price is enhanced by likin squeezes. Unhappily the colony was again exposed to a visitation of the plague and a larger number of Europeans were affected than in the former visitations. The heart of the community was especially touched by the deaths of Sisters GERTRUDE and FRANCES, Sisters of the Government Civil Hospital staff who contracted the disease whilst in the discharge of their duty. The memory of these ladies is to be perpetuated by a memorial erected by public subscription. The shadow of the plague is again hanging over us, the disease having made its reappearance in the neighbouring province, but it is to be hoped that by wise sanitary measures its invasion of the colony may be prevented or, should it unhappily obtain an entrance, that its ravages may be confined within narrow limits.

In official and social circles the year has been one of changes. In February Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON retired from the office of Governor and until the arrival of Sir HENRY BLAKE a few weeks ago the administration was in the capable hands of Major-General BLACK. The General's own term of office having also expired His Excellency left the colony last week, carrying with him the good wishes of the community, and by the last mail his successor, Major-General GASCOGNE arrived. Admiral BULLER has been replaced by Admiral SEYMOUSE, and several important

additions to the fleet have been made. The King's Own Regiment, which arrived at the close of last year, is to leave us in a few days, its place being taken by the Welsh Fusiliers. The vacancy in the Bishopric has been filled by the appointment of the Right Rev. Bishop HOARE, whose enthronement took place on the 12th November. The Colonial Secretary has been absent during the greater part of the year, the acting appointment being filled by Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH, and Mr. H. E. WODEHOUSE, Police Magistrate, after a long term of service in the colony, has finally retired. Socially the most important event of the year has been the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess HENRY of Prussia, who are spending the winter in the colony.

Before another issue of the *Daily Press* appears 1898 will have given place to 1899 and we take this opportunity of wishing all our readers

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AND HIS MISSION.

(*Daily Press*, 6th January).

Lord CHARLES BERESFORD has come and gone, leaving behind him a lively sense of his genial personality and sound common sense. No one who has heard him speak or read his speeches can fail to be impressed by the thoroughness with which his Lordship has conducted his investigations, and whether his conclusions be accepted or not—and on such a complex problem there must necessarily be wide differences of opinion—the British communities of the Far East, the home Government, and the nation at large must feel indebted to him for having put forward a definite working theory by the ventilation of which we may at last find the key to the great Chinese puzzle. On public grounds it is to be regretted that the speech made by Lord CHARLES at the China Association tiffin was not reported, as it was in one sense the most important he has delivered in the Far East, inasmuch as it dealt to a great extent with the why and the wherefore of his recommendations with respect to the reform of the Chinese army. When the report of the Shanghai speech reached Hongkong many, ourselves amongst the number, experienced a sense of disappointment at the almost total absence of any reference to the necessity of reforming the Chinese administration except on the military side. Army reform might prove a good thing, or on the other hand it might prove a bad thing, according to the use to which the reformed army was put, but in any case it was not a matter which, standing alone, was calculated to excite much enthusiasm amongst a community irritated by continual breaches of the treaties and suffering under the restrictions of their trade caused thereby. In introducing Lord CHARLES to the meeting at the City Hall on Tuesday Mr. R. M. GRAY, the Chairman, briefly urged the importance of securing the removal of the impediments to trade, and Lord CHARLES responded by saying that the whole fiscal system of the country must be taken up. That important question, however, still appeared to be relegated in his Lordship's mind to a position inferior to that occupied by the question of army reform. At the China Association tiffin, in reply to Mr. FRANCIS, who placed the point directly before him in his usual incisive style, Lord CHARLES explained why he held that army reform must come first. To attempt to enforce

financial reform in China under present conditions would, he held, lead to disturbances all over the country and prove futile, but when a trained and disciplined army has been established the Government will be in a position to repress provincial opposition to its decrees and to carry out its schemes of reform quietly and in their entirety.

If reform of the army is to be the prelude to financial reform it must be welcomed with enthusiasm. But would it prove so? That would depend on the character of the Government having control of the army. The Turkish army is a very good fighting machine, as has been fully proved in the wars with Russia and Greece, but it is largely employed in the work of massacre and has no influence at all on the standard of administrative honesty, the Government of Turkey being if anything a trifle more corrupt and barbarous than that of China. There is no necessary connection therefore between army reform and financial reform in general, and whether army reform in China would prove a good thing from a foreign point of view would depend entirely upon the use that was made of the reformed army. Nor are we entirely satisfied that financial reform might not be carried out prior to or simultaneously with the reform of the army without leading to the disturbances anticipated by Lord CHARLES BERESFORD. If, however, China can be induced to accept foreign assistance in the reorganisation of her army and foreign assistance in the reorganisation of her finances, and at the same time to be guided by foreign opinion in the use she makes of the army, there is a bright future in store for the country and for those who have commercial connections with its people.

A strong, independent, and progressive China is what would best suit Great Britain both from a political and a commercial point of view, and Lord CHARLES BERESFORD has pointed out a line of policy by which he thinks that ideal may be realised. His Lordship proposes to provide China with a trained and disciplined army for police purposes as a prelude to the reform of her whole system of administration, and at the same time to guarantee the country's territorial integrity by means of an alliance between Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and Japan, who are all interested in the preservation of China as an open market. If the programme can be carried out in its entirety it will be an excellent thing and we will all be vastly indebted to Lord CHARLES BERESFORD for bringing about such a desirable consummation, as indeed we already are indebted to him for propounding the programme and so directing men's minds straight to the points requiring solution. For our own part we cannot divest ourselves of the conviction that the crucial point of the whole question is the possibility of effecting financial reforms, which are at the root of all other reforms, for with an honest administration of the funds raised from the people we should expect honesty in all other departments of the Government as a natural consequence, including an honest observance of treaty obligations and the suppression of the frequent anti-foreign outbreaks which at present disgrace the country. Without a rehabilitation of the moral integrity of China we must confess we see little use in either Great Britain or any other Power making sacrifices to preserve her territorial integrity. Things could hardly be worse in the country, either for the people themselves or for foreign trade, than they are under the present system, and a change, even if effected

by the pushfulness of our rival Russia, could scarcely fail to be a change for the better. But no one who has had to live amongst and work with the Chinese can fail to entertain a respect for the undoubtedly high qualities of the race and a belief in its magnificent possibilities provided it can shake itself free of its old-time traditions and its habit of looking backward instead of forward. Already indications have appeared amongst the people of a genuine desire for reform, indications so strong that the Government at Peking has felt constrained to pay attention to them. There seems, indeed, some possibility of Great Britain's desire to see China a strong, independent, and progressive Power being realised. We wish Lord CHARLES BERESFORD all success in his efforts to bring that result about, and have to thank him for presenting the China problem to us in a clearer light than we have hitherto seen it in. But it is evidently a case of mending or breaking. If China will not reform she must inevitably go to pieces.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On 30th December a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.).

His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, Officer Commanding the Troops.

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. OEMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MAJOR-GENERAL GASCOIGNE TAKES THE OATH.

His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne having taken the oath, His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR observed to him—I am glad to have you as a member of the Legislative Council, and have pleasure in welcoming you.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted and adopted as a correct record.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) was laid on the table and adopted, on the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER.

AMENDING THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL—I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Waterworks Ordinances, 1890 to 1897. As honourable members will see from the Bill, it is purely an amending Ordinance, and the objects and reasons for the passing of this Ordinance are stated at the foot of the Bill, which has been circulated among honourable members. If there is any question which any member would like to ask in committee I shall be pleased to answer it. This Ordinance has been brought forward by me in consequence of certain points which were raised by the Honourable the Director of Public Works.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause. No alterations were made in committee, and on Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The objects and reasons of the Bill are thus stated:—The reason for section 2 of this Bill

arises under the following circumstances. It sometimes happens that there is good cause for stopping the supply to one or two houses in a terrace comprising, say ten houses in all, all of which are supplied through one connection with the main, a branch being led into each house from what may be termed a subsidiary main laid along the terrace. The only means of stopping the supply without entering on private property would be by shutting the valve or stop-cock which controls the supply to the whole terrace of houses. Hence arises the necessity for empowering the Water Authority to enter upon private property for the purpose of disconnecting or otherwise dealing with the service of water to the particular house or houses in question. Section 3 of this Bill is intended to remove a doubt which had been suggested as to whether a water service to a garden not used for purposes of pecuniary profit would come strictly under the heading of non-domestic supply. Sections 4 and 5 of the Bill are intended to remove doubts as to the power to charge for connecting a water-service supply with the water-works or for fixing meters. Section 6 is intended to legalize, if and so far as they require legalizing, any payments made under the various sections of the Waterworks Ordinances which are amended by sections 3 to 5, inclusive, of this Ordinance.

NATURALISATION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Wong Shu Tong, alias Wong Ka Yau, alias Wong Wing Kwan. As honourable members will see from the recitals in the Bill, the gentleman whom it is proposed to naturalise is now employed as compradore to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at Victoria, in this Colony, and is a partner in the I SHANG firm, carrying on business as coal merchants at No. 68, Praia Central at Victoria aforesaid, and owns considerable landed property in this colony. He has resided in this colony for the last forty years, and has declared his intention of residing here permanently, and has petitioned to be naturalized as a British subject, within the limits of this colony.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Bill, having been considered in committee and no amendments having been made in committee, was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*. His Excellency the GOVERNOR wishing all present very happy new year.

SUPREME COURT.

3rd January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A WILL DISPUTE.

In this case Leung Hing Sung, or Leung Shi, was the plaintiff and Leung Ngan Pan the defendant, the interveners being Leung Mak Shi, Leung Ngo Shi, and Leung Cheong Shi.

Messrs. Francis and Pollock (instructed by Mr. Gedge) appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Robinson and Dr. Ho Kai (instructed by Mr. Looker) for the defendant, and Mr. Slade (instructed by Mr. Looker) for the interveners.

Mr. Francis said the testator whose affairs were concerned in this suit was called Leung Wai Hing, who died at Canton on the 4th of April last of plague. He had left Hongkong for Canton on the 31st of the previous month. He left behind property within the jurisdiction of that court consisting of household and leasehold estate, and he also had a half share in the business carried on under the style of the Mee Kee. He owned household property to the value of \$14,000, and his half share in the Mee Kee was said to be worth about \$10,000. He left surviving him a grandmother, Leung Mak Shi, his own mother, Leung Ngo Shi, a step-mother, Leung Cheong Shi, and his wife, the present plaintiff, Leung Shi, who at the time of his death was pregnant and had since given birth to a son. There were also a con-

cubine, four daughters, and a son. The contest in this case was between two alleged wills. It was stated on the part of the defendant that Leung Wai Hing on the morning of the 31st March last, before he embarked on a steamer for Canton, executed a will, which was put forward by the defendant. By that will the elder brother, the defendant, was appointed trustee of the entire property and practically executor of the will with full power to pay off debts, with full power to sell and dispose of property, bound by the trust to provide maintenance during their lives for the persons named in the will, provide proper outfits for the daughters on their marriage, with the ultimate trust in favour of the only son then living or of the two sons if a son should be born after his death. The allegation on the part of plaintiff was that no such will was made by the testator before leaving Hongkong, but that when about to leave Hongkong for Canton he signed at his brother's request, who was partner in the Mee Kee, three blank sheets of paper for the purpose of enabling his brother to carry on the business. The testator went away in a very great hurry. Two or three members of his family had already died of plague, and he believed himself to be already affected. The plaintiff alleged with reference to the will she propounded that after the testator had got on board the steamer, and while he was on his way to Canton on board the steamer, at her request, she knowing he had made no will, he made the will which she propounded, which will gave to his legal wife power to manage his Hongkong and Canton business for her own support, and also directed her to provide for his sons and daughters, and other matters of like account.

Evidence was then given in support of the plaintiff's case.

The hearing was adjourned.

THE REBELLION IN SZECHUEN.

IMPERIALIST SUCCESSES.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SHANGHAI, 3rd January.

Chungking wires that a great battle took place at Sanchiaotsang on the 27th December, in which the Imperialists were victorious.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AT THE CITY HALL.

IMPORTANT SPEECH ON THE CHINA QUESTION.

Yesterday afternoon a public meeting promoted by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held in St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall, for the purpose of welcoming Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., to the colony and hearing an address from him. Mr. R. M. Gray, as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, presided, and there were present on the platform in addition to Lord Charles Beresford and his private secretary (Mr. Robin Grey), Messrs. T. Jackson, A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, A. McConachie, H. A. Ritchie, W. Poate (members of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce), and R. C. Wilcox (secretary to the Chamber of Commerce).

The CHAIRMAN said—In introducing Lord Charles Beresford to this meeting I feel that I have undertaken a very grateful task. It was a great disappointment that we did not hear him speak upon his arrival out, but we cannot fail to admit that he was the best judge upon this point, and it will give us all the more pleasure to listen to him now that he has made himself master of the Chinese question by most energetic and exhaustive enquiry and by personal observation. (Hear, hear.) We are much indebted to the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain for inducing Lord Charles Beresford to come out, and we are also very much indebted to Lord Charles Beresford for accepting the mission. That such an enquiry was needful, nay imperative, for British interests, I think you will all agree, and the only regret to my mind is that this mission was not undertaken several years ago—(Hear, hear)—so that the position in China might have been brought clearly before our Government, which would have been of the greatest value during the stirring events of the year just closed.

From his speeches elsewhere we know that Lord Charles Beresford has given very great attention to the question of the "open door" as essential to our trade with China, an opinion in which all interested in the trade must agree, and we shall also listen with the greatest interest to his suggested commercial alliance of the largest trading nations, an alliance which must prove of inestimable benefit to all, both in the interest of peace and the extension of commerce. (Hear, hear.) Of all the various points which have come before his Lordship, I sincerely hope that he has not failed to recognise that what concerns us very deeply is that, in spite of all efforts by Chambers of Commerce and Consuls, our treaties are deliberately flouted in the matter of provincial exactions, and that our trade is thereby prevented from expanding as it otherwise would certainly do, were our importations allowed to reach the consumers without being burdened by indefinite inland taxes. (Hear, hear.) In spite of clause No. 28 in the Treaty of Tientsin, it is only within a very recent time that a transit pass was of any value in the Southern Provinces. Now a transit pass is a very good thing as franking the goods to their destination after payment at port of entry of one duty and a half, but when there is an undefined Tso-li or Lo-ti-shui tax awaiting the shipment at its destination, I should like to know what is the good of pretending that the commercial clauses of the Treaty of Tientsin are being carried out. (Hear, hear.) This system of inland taxation is not only a bar to trade in regard to the amount levied, but it also causes continual delay and opportunities for squeezing *en route* which ought to be done away with, and which nothing but the complete opening of the waterways of China will remedy. Such an opening of the inland waterways, combined with efficient policing, would put down the piracy and brigandage which are so rife in these Southern Provinces, and which are a constant deterrent to trade. We have therefore every reason to press for these necessary measures as well as for the reform of fiscal taxation. There are many other points which arise in the great China question, but which I must leave to Lord Charles Beresford to deal with, and I have therefore now very much pleasure in requesting him to address this meeting. (Applause.)

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD, who was received with loud cheers, said—Mr. Gray, ladies and gentlemen: I have to return my hearty thanks to the Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong for having asked me to address them here before I get home to England. I think it is very necessary I should say a few words here to the Chamber of Commerce, because I have come out here in the interests of traders, particularly British traders, of this great country, and I was sent out here by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, which, as you know, in many cases, include numbers of foreigners interested in trade. With regard to what your chairman said just now as to my knowing much about China, I am afraid I must differ with him entirely. I shall not pretend when I go home that I know all about China or even a very little about China. What I shall pretend to do is, as far as I am able, to communicate your views to the people at home, the great electorate at home, what your wishes are and how you consider they should be carried out, and what you wish in regard to danger in the future, and how you think that danger can be disposed of or modified. (Hear, hear.) Well, as far as I have gone, and I have visited every place where there is a British community, I have found one opinion among our countrymen, and that opinion is that something has got to be done—(Hear, hear)—that we cannot go on as we are doing, and that our trade and commerce must be secured in the future. (Hear, hear.) I have been bold enough to put before the China Association what I think that something should be. Anyway it is a something and it is a policy, and at the present moment we have nothing whatever to secure our trade for the future, and I think you will agree with me we have no policy at all in regard to our affairs in China. (Hear, hear). As to this want of policy and as to certain things not being carried out I have observed remarks which rather censured your Minister, Sir Claude MacDonald. Now I do not

think that that is quite fair or chivalrous. Sir Claude is the first Minister who has grasped the idea that a Minister's duty here is not only to think of diplomatic arrangements but of trade and commerce as well, and he is a man who has worked as hard as any man could work in the interests of the trade of Great Britain. (Hear, hear.) Sir Claude is after all but the accredited agent of Great Britain. He is not responsible. The Cabinet at home is responsible—(Hear, hear)—and the proper people to find fault with are undoubtedly in my opinion the Cabinet; and for this reason: the Cabinet can defend themselves, the Cabinet can give reasons for their policy if the British community find fault with that policy, whilst Sir Claude MacDonald has no right of reply, and has no method whatever of arguing against those who argue with him. Therefore the proper people to censure are the Cabinet. Possibly you may think as I am an Irishman and would be against authority in any event—(Laughter)—that that is the reason I make that remark, but it is not so. Governments are created to be criticised, and no Government in the world, however strong, can carry out measures involving an entire change of policy or which might lead to war, unless they see that the communities and the great electorate are behind them. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I say the proper people to send resolutions to, and to censure, are the Cabinet and not your minister, who is doing his best under difficult circumstances. But let me bring this home to your minds by an incident in my own country. There was a certain landlord who ordered what we call a "hanging gale" of rents—that all the rents on his property were to be doubled. The agent wrote back that if he carried out his landlord's orders he would be shot, to which the landlord replied, "Please inform my tenants that if they think they are going to terrify me by shooting you they are very much mistaken." (Laughter). Now, Sir, I do not modify at all the views I ventured to express at Shanghai. From my point of view we have two dangers in the future with regard to the security of our trade and commerce—one is the dominant military position taken up in the north by Russia, and the other is the effete condition of the Chinese Government. When I speak of the dominant position of Russia in the north I speak of what I know and of what I myself saw, and if a foreign country takes up certain strong positions with regard to what they think necessary for their own people, it is for us to see that they do nothing which hurts the interest of our people. (Hear, hear.) I think if I was a Russian I should do exactly what the Russians are doing only I should do a great deal more. I am not at all sure I should not have been in Peking before now, and I am absolutely certain the Russians will be in Peking before very long, when once they have secured their military positions, if they find no more remonstrance or opposition than they do at present from the other great countries of Europe. There was one thing telegraphed home with regard to some remarks I made at Shanghai which was telegraphed incorrectly. It said I remarked that the open door was being everywhere closed against us. I never said anything so foolish, or so untrue. What I did say with regard to the policy of the open door and British trade in Manchuria was that it was worse for our countrymen and our traders to have a commercial enterprise interfered with—not to be allowed to conduct commercial enterprises—than it was to put on tariffs or preferential rates. If another country puts on a tariff the British trader knows where he is. It goes into his profit and loss account but eventually falls on to the consumer. He can go on trading, but if a merchant is stopped altogether, I say the door is shut more firmly than if you put on a tariff, and I cited the Shantung-Newchwang Railway. As you know our Government told the Russian Government they would not be allowed to interfere with any commercial enterprise which British merchants might undertake, but the Russian Government did interfere, and they said we should not have the security for the line which went beyond Shantung. That was a direct interference with a commercial enterprise, and I hold here, as I have held before, that the British Government should not have allowed the Russian Government to inter-

fere with a commercial enterprise, and therefore the door is just as shut as if there was a most hostile tariff put against us. You must remember we have in the Treaty of Tientsin got equal rights with other nations in all parts of China. Those equal rights do not exist at this moment in Manchuria where the Russians have this military domination. With regard to the military domination, when the Russians are ready, when they have their bases of supply, when they have a great many troops there, there is no reason in the world why they should not put on a tariff. It is always wise to judge of events which are coming by what has preceded in history. If in the case of Merv and Batoum the Russians had taken up their positions at once there would certainly have been war, but they waited and did it after the British people had calmed down. There has been something said about the railway the Russians are making from Newchwang. I explained to the people of Shanghai that the Russians were ignoring the Customs. That was a thing I saw with my own eyes. Steamers came in and passed the Customs House and discharged their material at the Russian wharf, and the Customs House officials were ordered not to interfere. The Customs House officials do not go on board at all. I hold that as the Maritime Customs are part of the security for what Germany and England have lent to China that security should not be interfered with. It is said the Chinese will do the same thing with regard to other lines, but the Russian railway in Manchuria is essentially being made with Russian capital for strategical purposes. There is no trade there at present, but the other railway which the Banking Corporation has provided the capital for is a Chinese railway for trade—altogether a different matter—and the Chinese railway for trade reverts to the Chinese Government in, I think, 35 years, but the Russian railway does not revert to the Chinese Government until the end of 80 years, and I don't suppose many of us will live to see whether it does or does not at that date. There is another point about this Russian domination in the north. We ought to ask ourselves, what are all these enormous preparations in Manchuria for? Not to protect trade, because there is no trade. Anyone can see what are the claims and aims of Russia, and I do say that we should say what our claims are and what our aims are. There is no necessity for any antagonism to Russia, there is no necessity in the world to make use of irritating language; but there is every necessity to put down a clear and definite policy in the most courteous way and to let Russia know what we think of the future, and how we are prepared to support what we think. That, I hold, is not an irritating line to pursue; it is not an aggravating line, but an honest statesmanlike line, and I do say with regard to the policy enunciated by certain members of our Government at home with regard to the affairs in the north, that it is much better to do as I say—to be courteous and put down something definite and do something than it is to be irritating and do nothing. (Hear, hear.) Now, Sir, I have been called anti-Russian. I entirely demur to that. I am no more anti-Russian than antianything else. I am perfectly friendly with the Russians, and I have the greatest admiration for their diplomacy, for whenever they have met us in diplomacy they have invariably beaten us. What their methods are I do not care to enquire. I am not at all anti-Russian; but I am pro-British, and when I see things which may endanger our trade and commerce in the future I like to state in the most courteous way, but in a broad, plain, and honest way, what I think may happen in the future if we do not do anything. (Hear, hear.) I am not one of those who believe in the security of our trade and commerce unless we have that defence which is adequate to meet whatever may occur in the future with regard to other nations. (Hear, hear.) Another point in regard to this question of the Russian occupation, or military domination. I read in one paper that I was very indiscreet and that I ought not to say such things, but I think you will agree with me that it is always best to tell the truth right out. You need not be discourteous. (Hear, hear.) It is not indiscreet to tell the truth, more particularly when the great trading and commercial interests of this country may be

threatened, and they are threatened certainly if things go on as they are. Now, sir, with regard to the future. As you know, my mission is a commercial mission, and therefore a peaceful mission, but one or two of my critics have said, "What does he talk politics for when his mission is commercial?" I most respectfully submit that it is absolutely impossible for you to separate the political question of to-day from the commercial questions of the future. Upon what your political thought is now will depend your commercial future, whether it is successful or a failure. Therefore it is absurd to talk only of shirtings and samples and trousers buttons. (Laughter). Upon the political question depends the whole future of the trade and commerce of this country—certainly as far as Great Britain is concerned, and indisputably as far as Germany, Japan, and America are concerned. (Hear, hear.) Now, sir, there are only three policies open in the future. One is the policy of the open door, another is the policy of the sphere of influence, and the other is the policy of drift. I believe the door can be kept open by having a commercial alliance between America, Germany, and Japan and ourselves. I mention these countries because each one of these countries has the same interests that we have. It is just as important for everyone of these countries that the open door should be maintained as it is for the British merchants. Therefore let us keep together. The British nation cannot fight for the open door by itself, but it could very well ally itself with these three countries. You know what occurred in Europe when Germany, Austria, and Italy formed an alliance the basis of which was the peace of Europe; they kept the peace of Europe for 29 years. That is absolutely certain. (Hear, hear.) Whether that alliance if tested by war would have succeeded or not is not the point. The point is that the alliance was based on a definite object, and it attained that object for 29 years. The greatest interest we can hold is the interest of peace. Why should we not have an alliance of the same sort here. America's trade with China has gone up by leaps and bounds, and she must have an open door. Japan certainly wants an open door because her population and her trade are increasing enormously in Korea. If the door is shut in Manchuria it is not very unreasonable to suppose it would be shut in Korea. And then there is the great empire of Germany. The Germans must have an open door in this country, and the Germans I have met have been most friendly and sympathetic on this question. When I have asked both their consuls and their traders Germans have said to me, "Your great country opened out the trade of China. You made our trade possible first, and we ought to support you in trying to keep this policy of the open door a definite and determined policy in the whole of China." (Hear, hear.) Well, then, that is the first and foremost suggestion I would make to you, but then that would be no use because, as a friend of mine said to me to-day, it is no use having an open door unless you have the house in order inside. You must have what is the basis of security of all trade and commerce, the basis of life and contentment, which is only to be provided by an efficient military and an efficient police throughout the country. You know very well what the state of the Chinese army and police is at this moment. I knew it was bad. Some of you know it is bad, but I never had the shadow of a suspicion that it was as bad as I found it. They absolutely have nothing at this moment in the whole of this empire. They have no navy, their ships are not worthy the name, and of their armies there is only one army of 7,000 men that is at all properly trained in the whole of this gigantic population of four hundred million people. That is not enough to preserve life and property. The first thing for the alliance to do would be to induce the Chinese Government to organise their army on suitable methods and suitable grounds. Since I have been in China I have seen everyone of the armies, arsenals, dockyards, forts, ships, and naval and military schools of China and found them in a deplorable state. Lord Boree-ford, continuing, gave instances of this and said that with the same budget if waste was obviated, he was of opinion that an

army of 200,000 men might be maintained. The Viceroys he had seen had approved of his suggestions for reorganizing the army, but had maintained there was no money to carry them out. The whole system of the administration should be reformed by the adequate payment of the officials. There were seven collectorates in the Yangtze Valley alone in which the *likin* had been allocated to pay the interest on the foreign loans, and Lord Charles showed this was likely to cause disturbance because there was no money to carry on the provincial Governments, which made the positions of the higher officials very arduous and made them look to the future with fear. Speaking of the sphere of influence policy Lord Charles pointed out that if we went in for a sphere of influence, France, Russia, Germany, America, and Japan would go in for the same thing, and the inevitable result of that would be that we should have to use British troops and have to expend British money at first, and the inevitable result would be that tariffs would be put on, and our trade and commerce would certainly not be in as good a position as if we had the open door. (Hear, hear.) Alluding to the demands of the French consul in Shanghai, Lord Charles said that if persisted in it must cause riots among the Chinese. The French wanted to take the whole Chinese Bund where the Chinese had expended some fifty million dollars, which was illuminated with electricity, and which was one of the few instances where the Chinese had commenced a great commercial enterprise and had succeeded. The French Consul wanted to take over the whole Bund from the native town. He must say he thought the demand outrageous, and he did not believe the great French nation could know anything about it. It was not right that in a cosmopolitan community such as Shanghai one part of that community should create disturbances—which they would do if their demands were granted—which would jeopardise the lives and property of the whole of the rest of the community, and he therefore hoped the other consuls would stick very strongly to the protests which they had made to their Governments with regard to the French action at Shanghai. (Hear, hear.) Reverting to the suggested re-organisation of the Chinese army, with perhaps British officers, Lord Charles added that we must have a *quid pro quo*. We must have a revision of the tariff. We must take up the whole fiscal system of the country, which as the Chairman had pointed out militated against the traders. We must have some understanding that the country is to be opened up—that any country can send its engineers and capital to open up the latent resources of the country. If the Chinese did not do this very soon they would be in a position of poverty, for in another five or six years they would have no money whatever. With regard to the throwing open of the water-ways, they had not been thrown open in a satisfactory way. The water-ways would not be satisfactorily thrown open to the nations of Europe until Europeans had a right of residence in the country, and until they had a different system of allowing those boats which were registered in a certain port to pass any port to go to a destination. (Hear, hear.) We should send gunboats up these water-ways—not at all with the idea of frightening the Viceroy, and the Viceroy had told him he would be very glad to have these gunboats up the rivers. Another thing that might be dealt with was the scientific classification of the products such as had been done in India. On the subject of non-respect of treaty obligations by China, he reminded his hearers that a treaty was not only between two Governments but was a contract between the British Government and the British merchants, and therefore every point should be kept. China was not over-taxed, but badly taxed. The reform of China would not be difficult, because there were no hereditary rights, no vested interests, no feudal system to consider as was the case in Japan. The Chinese had a great reverence for authority and were honest traders, and these were factors that should tell in favour of reform in the administrative system, for it was the system more than the people that was bad. He was glad to see that the British Government was realising the importance of our position in China by raising a garrison for Weihsien, sending out a commercial attaché instead of

paying an additional £100 to the Consul-General at Shanghai to act as a sort of commercial attaché, and by supporting a test case about the area of exemption at Canton, where a British trader was to establish a store outside the concession in order to test the position. His Lordship, in conclusion, asked for a chivalrous policy towards China on the one hand and towards the European Powers on the other, abandoning any policy of irritating criticism and jealous interference with other foreign powers in China. He called for such resolutions on the part of the British communities in China as would strengthen the hands of his mission, and he closed with an assurance that whatever question was brought to his notice by any public body or individual would be submitted by him to the Cabinet for consideration. (Loud applause).

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Charles Beresford. Before doing so he made a speech of considerable length. Referring to Lord Charles Beresford's visit, he said there were many who held the opinion that before any member was returned to parliament he ought to have travelled at least once round the world. (Laughter and applause). He then dealt with the blockade of the harbour of Hongkong by the Chinese revenue cruisers, which were, he said, inflicting injury, wrong and mischief to British trade in a way that could never be fairly understood. Dealing with the presence in Hongkong of the Imperial Maritime Customs, he reminded the meeting that Hongkong as a part of a free trade country, was indeed a free port, and yet we tolerated the presence of an institution which was entirely hostile to free trade. He trusted this was a question that would be taken up by Lord Charles Beresford on his return to England. He agreed with all that his lordship had said with regard to the people of China. The people of China were good, but the rulers of the Chinese people were —— (laughter and applause). The one pressing and immediate need of China was, he ventured to say, railways. These railways would be a great power for peace and reformation in China. He would now conclude by proposing a vote of thanks to Lord Charles, whose views he hoped would be realised. One thing had certainly been realised. They had been brought nearer to the home country by such agency as that of Lord Charles Beresford. (Applause). It was our distance that divided us. They wanted to keep more in touch with home, and they wanted the people at home to understand more about China. Lord Charles had rightly spoken modestly of his acquaintance of a month or two with China. Sir Thomas Wade, after 40 years, said "I know nothing of China." He begged heartily and cordially to propose a vote of thanks to Lord Charles Beresford for having taken the labour and toil and given up his time to study the Chinese question on the spot, and they hoped much from his great influence for their representation of their case. (Applause).

MR. THOMAS JACKSON seconded. They all owed a debt of gratitude to Lord Charles Beresford for going so thoroughly into this question. He had been good enough to locate himself in a temporary office next door (the Hongkong Bank), and he could assure them, from personal observation, that Lord Charles had not eaten the bread of idleness during his stay in Hongkong. Occasionally his lordship had asked him questions, but he might have saved himself the trouble, for he knew pretty well the answers to all the questions that were put. Lord Charles was a thorough advocate of the open door, a fair field and no favour to all those who come to trade with China, and not only that, he wanted a well-ordered house inside. He had pointed out the remedy—he wanted the country properly policed, a standing army, the retrenchment of the public funds, which ought to be well spent. (Applause). There was one thing they most of all rejoiced at, and that was England was no longer regarded as the great selfish, big bully of the world wanting everything for herself. England was the first great manufacturing country, with a great deal of capital at her disposal, more perhaps than the ordinary share, and she had naturally to seek foreign markets. Now, other countries had increased their capital and come to the front as manufacturing powers, notably America, Germany, and Japan, and they

were seeking outlets for their capital and manufactures. On that fact he looked as a very material factor, those four nations, banded together for the open door, might not succeed for the moment, but that they would ultimately he was convinced. (Loud applause).

LORD BERESFORD replied, again urging the necessity for courteous treatment to the other powers in China.

The CHAIRMAN brought the proceedings to a close by calling for three cheers for Lord Charles Beresford, which were given most heartily, with "one more."

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AT THE NAVY LEAGUE BANQUET

On Tuesday night the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League entertained Lord Charles Beresford at dinner in St. George's Hall. The President of the Branch, Commander W. C. H. Hastings, R.N. (retired), occupied the chair, and amongst the company of about a hundred and fifty who sat down were H.E. the Governor, H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, Major Sir John Carrington (Hongkong Volunteer Corps), Hon. H. E. Pollock, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. T. Jackson, Mr. A. P. MacEwen, Colonel Elsdale, R.E., Mr. H. A. Ritchie, Mr. R. M. Gray, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, Hon. Secretary to the Branch. The dinner was provided by Messrs. Madar and Farmer. A special menu card had been prepared from a design by Mr. H. W. Bird, the principal feature being a blue jacket standing at the "charge," with a scroll stating the occasion of the gathering, "H.M.S. Condor" appearing above Lord Charles Beresford's name. The Band of H.M.S. Centurion was in attendance and played selections during the evening. Lord Charles Beresford made two important speeches, both of which were marked by passages of humour, and the other speeches were all good, especially one made by the Hon. H. E. Pollock in replying to the toast of the Navy League.

The toast of The Queen having been loyally honoured.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, in rising to propose the health of His Excellency the Governor I feel I am voicing your gratification when I say how pleased we are that Sir Henry Blake has honoured us with his presence at this, practically, the first public function, certainly the first dinner, of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League. Gentlemen, the health of His Excellency Sir Henry Blake. (Applause.)

SIR HENRY BLAKE said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I thank you very much for the hearty manner in which you have received the proposal of my health. As your Chairman has said, this is the first occasion on which I have appeared at a public function in Hongkong. I am at the present moment undergoing the pleasant experience of the honeymoon of a Governor, when everything is expected of him and when he has not had much time to disclose his various defects. I only hope that as time goes on you will not feel as John Brown did of his wife. Before he was married he felt that he could have eaten her, and ever after he was sorry he hadn't. (Laughter). Up to the present moment I need hardly tell you there has been no opportunity of telling whether I can or can not do any good for this colony. There are certain questions awaiting development, and when we have decided where the Jubilee Road is to run—(laughter)—and the Lying-in Hospital to be situated; built a post-office with the requirements necessary in a civilized community—(laughter and applause)—a Supreme Court in which the Judges may sit with safety—(renewed laughter)—and made roads over which the youth of Hongkong may ride paper chases from Kowloon to Sham Chun, I hope to be able to come before you when we may congratulate each other upon having done something. I assure you that I am most anxious to do whatever I can for the good of the colony. (Applause.) I will not detain you longer, because I know that you are all most anxious to hear what my noble friend Lord Charles Beresford may have to say to you in connection with the Navy League, and as you listen to his homely words you may rest assured that the same deter-

mined spirit that at Alexandria caused the signal "Well done Condor" to flutter from the flagship and that under a heavy and continuous fire patched the shot holes in the boiler of the Nile steamer in the first unavailing search for Khartoum will carry to a successful issue all that Lord Charles Beresford is doing for the Navy League, for the people of England, and for the interests of the Empire. (Applause.) I can only for my own part, gentlemen, now thank you most heartily for the manner in which you have received the toast of my health. (Applause.)

Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., proposed "The Navy, Army, and Reserve Forces," coupling it, with the names of Lord Charles Beresford, Major-General Gascoigne, and Major Sir John Carrington, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Lord CHARLES BERESFORD in reply said—Captain Hastings, your Excellencies, and gentlemen, I am very proud to have been suddenly called upon to return thanks for the great service to which I have the honour to belong. As Mr. Francis has well said, our great Empire, which extends all over the world, rests mainly on the defence which the Royal Navy can give, when speaking of the Royal Navy we must never be led away by the idea that the Royal Navy is the only service that keeps the empire going. Some years ago the Navy was in a state of what I might term disrepair, it was not in the condition which our bands used to signify it was in. They used to play all over the world, "Britannia rules the waves"—(laughter)—but unfortunately at that moment Britannia did nothing of the sort. (Laughter). The people of the country, however, began to discover it was not in the condition it should be; but now I believe it is in the condition it should be. (Applause.) The Navy is not an arm for defiance, it is an arm for defence. Where it is useful for our empire is this. We live by water-borne commerce and water-borne food. Our empire extends all over the world; therefore we present a large area for attack, and it is the business of the Navy to prevent any other country landing munitions of war or troops to any part of the empire. When the Navy has, to put it in an allegorical phrase, knocked into a cocked hat all other navies, then the Army comes in. (Laughter and applause.) As far as I have been able in my humble way, I have always declared against the Navy being treated as the only arm. It has its duty to fulfil, which is to ensure the command of the sea, but when we have to settle disturbances that is the business of the Army. But the first essential is to have command of the sea. (Applause.) In former times we had our old wooden walls, and we had a much larger navy than proportionately to our commerce than we have now. Our rate of insurance was much larger then than now, if you take the proportion between your water-borne commerce and the amount represented by the Naval estimates. The Navy has been strengthened of late years, but there are still a certain number of things to be done to render your Navy efficient, and there are still a certain number of things—I do not like the word grievances—to be remedied in order to render the navy perfectly happy and contented. It is the business of public men who have the ear of the public to bring those matters before the public. The public is always generous to the Navy and will undertake to remove any grievance that exists. (Applause.) Amongst other things that we wanted very badly some time ago were docks and repairing facilities. In the old days we were self-supporting. Vessels carried with them all the necessities for repair—spars, canvass, and the planking to mend the holes the enemy had been good enough to make in your sides. (Laughter.) Now you have to go to a dockyard. But the human element is what will win an action: (Hear, hear.) I believe at this moment our officers and men are just as good as they were in the old days—(loud applause)—only in the old days, and even when I went to sea, everybody had a chance of doing something to win the action.—Here his Lordship gave a description in nautical language of some damage sustained by a vessel in her rigging in the old days, which if it had not been observed might have proved fatal, but an old seaman in the tops saw it done and put the stopper on the sheet. Therefore, his Lordship continued, the

man who won the action was the old able seaman in the fore top. Now that is all altered; we have to do everything in a different manner. We have a thing called an electric button, by which we can handle the engines, handle the guns, and handle the helm, and now much more depends on the individuality of the Admiral or Captain than on the individual man. But the individual man still comes in, and we are very often prone to forget the man behind the gun. The man behind the gun wins the action, as the man in the old days did in the fore top—(applause)—but more depends now on the commander. By some miscalculation of the officer in command, with the ship going at a great pace, the action may be lost. No matter how good a man may be he is liable to make a mistake. Therefore you want as commanders men of excellent nerve, men of excellent training, and you want younger men. A man may think he is as good at fifty or forty-five as at forty, but he is nothing of the sort. He may be very good for administrative purposes—(laughter and applause)—but for executive purposes you want young men who don't fear consequences, who go straight ahead. You must have some sort of caution, some sense of proportion, but when you get to a certain age you know too much. (Laughter and applause.) When you get to a certain age you are not disposed to risk so much. If I were in command of a fleet I should like to see all my vessels in the hands of young men, because they don't fear consequences, they don't know enough—(applause)—and they will very often pull an action through that looked absolutely impossible when it commenced. The men in the Navy at the present day I believe are second to none. (Applause.) They are of a far higher social position than when I joined the service. In those days there was a good deal of eat and very little discipline; now there is very little eat and very good discipline. (Applause.) The men have a readiness of resource and independence of action which is essential for those who go down to the sea in ships, and at this moment I do not believe there are a better lot of men anywhere, both in character and discipline, than the men of Her Majesty's fleet. (Loud applause.) Sir, I have to thank you very much for the kind remarks you made about the Navy and I have to thank this assemblage most gratefully for the way in which they drank the health of the officers, seamen, and marines of Her Majesty's fleet.

His Lordship resumed his seat amidst loud and long continued applause.

Major-General GASCOIGNE also responded to the toast on behalf of the Army, and Major Sir JOHN CARRINGTON on behalf of the Auxiliary Forces.

The CHAIRMAN said—Your Excellencies and Gentlemen, the toast of the evening "Our Guest," which I have now the honour to propose, needs few words in an assemblage like this—of Navy Leaguers—or in any gathering in the world of British men, when that guest is Lord Charles Beresford. (Loud applause). It falls to the lot of but few men to do in their day and generation what has been done by "Our Guest." Nineteen years ago, Admiral—then Capt.—Lord Beresford roused our country to a sense of her deadly peril. As an Irishman, he was a born orator. As a distinguished naval officer and seamen, he was listened to as an expert. He showed the people of Great Britain that their fleets were insufficient and obsolete, that their reserves of seamen were nonexistent, that their Naval dockyards were incapable of coping with the strain of a great war; in short that our world wide empire, our very existence as a nation was trembling in the balance, whilst we slumbered in a fool's paradise, and had forgotten the deeds of our great grandsires in 1800 and wartime. Moreover, there were not wanting signs and tokens that there were plenty of hungry eagles, sharpening bill and talons, to shred the old lion's carcase and carry off the young whelps. The Press patriotically co-operated and then—it is unnecessary to recapitulate after a Navy League dinner what followed. It is directly due to Lord Charles Beresford that the country was roused and the first naval programme formulated and carried out. (Applause.) Great, however, as had been his achieve-

ments, the hardest part of his task yet remained, to keep the strain up, the screw on. After the first spurt, the big grasp at the twenty millions, the old lion was inclined to go to sleep again, forgetting that time was not standing still for the birds of prey. Then "Our Guest" showed his grit; throughout the length and breadth of Britain, he preached to his countrymen, showing them that the old order had changed, steam and steel were not as wind and wood. When we fed ourselves, and fought the world, Dutchmen and Dagos had no place in our Merchant Navy. However, gentlemen, the League to which you belong has taught you the gigantic nature of the task undertaken by Lord Beresford, and how loyally and gallantly he bore the brunt of the battle. Three years ago our League was born, of which, if he was not the founder, he is surely the foundation and cornerstone, and our great oracle. Purely patriotic as are our aims, with no party platform, still, our propaganda has not spread as widely or as rapidly in Great as in Greater Britain. The reasons are not far to seek: we have fewer parish politics (though we can do a fair wrangle here, too, on occasion) and we are daily stared in the face with what would be our fate if Britain lost command of the seas, not the narrow seas only, now mark you, gentlemen, but all the seas that girdle the earth. In Hongkong to-night we number 331 Leaguers, nearly half the adult civil male British population. Gentlemen, we are no better nor wiser than our fellows at home; we are not all, nor nearly all, dilettanti out here for the good of our health, or to wear out our old clothes, but we see—what the bulk of our countrymen at home hardly hear of—what Britain has to face, and we know locally what it has to be faced with. We are not utterly selfish, it is not only of our own skins of which we think. We are a portion of the tentacles of that great octopus (as our dear friends across the channel call Great Britain) that are spread over the earth gathering in the fulness thereof to the Homeland. We are guilty of the folly and iniquity of affording a fair field and no favour to each and all alike, German or Britisher, Turk or infidel—worse still, despite this crass ignorance and imbecility, the old octopus gets her share (more than her share, so think and say some of our dearest friends) of this world's goods and waste lands. Living here, by this door, we know there are other doors, in Africa and elsewhere, but this particular door, the Chinese door, was opened some fifty odd years ago by British swords, and the hinges, albeit a bit rusty, have since then, from time to time, been lubricated with British blood, so through this door, for these reasons, we think we have a right of entry. (Applause.) If two missionarias equal Kiao-chau, *pro rata*, how much of China should be British? These, gentleman, are doubtless some of the causes which induce much "of what is best of the youth and maturity of the colony" to roll up and join the Navy League. If the vital necessity to the Empire of a strong navy could be as vividly impressed on our countrymen at home as it is patent to us, there would be no necessity for our League: the stems of British battle ships would be everywhere in evidence wedging open the doors of trade, and the nation would see to it that the supply of trained men to man those ships was not wanting. (Applause.) As business people we would underwrite the concern at a fair hook value. This evening is unique in the annals of the Hongkong branch of the League. We are honoured to-night by the presence of the Grand Master of our cult, the man whom our children will hold hereafter as the saviour of his country, who roused their fathers to a sense of their duty, and thus secured to them their heritage, which they their fathers in their sloth and ignorance had imperilled. As Leaguers, gentlemen, you are all the disciples of "Our Guest," Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, whose health I now call upon you to drink.

The toast was enthusiastically received.

Lord CHARLES BERESFORD—Captain Hastings, Your Excellencies, and Gentlemen, I have to render you my most grateful thanks for the most distinctive compliment you have paid me in this colony by asking me to be a guest at a Navy League banquet. I think the honour is the more distinctive because I see at this table certain gentlemen who are of other race than British,

January 7, 1899.

gentlemen who may not be British by birth, but who see the advantage of living under the British flag. (Applause.) It is also a most distinctive compliment to me to observe His Excellency the Governor at this banquet, and I have to thank His Excellency for the graceful remarks he made concerning me in his speech. It is one of the characteristics of the British race that whenever a public man does his best, and his level best, no matter to what party he may belong, he always receives the respect and sympathy of his fellow-countrymen, and that is always emphasised if they know he has met with difficulties in doing what he considered his duty. (Applause.) The kindness I have received here, and the kindness I have received from the great electorate at home, I consider far superior to whatever efforts I have made. (No, no.) The part that I have played with regard to naval defence I hope to play next session and possibly the session afterwards—(applause)—with regard to military defence. (Applause.) It is not deserving of very much credit certainly, but with regard to naval defects I believe the public were first attracted to them by my resigning my seat in the Ministry, because the public are well aware that once a man resigns his seat in the Ministry, unless he is a man of great influence, his career is more or less closed with regard to again getting office and I believe that resignation may have induced the British public and the British press to look into questions concerning the fleet. (Applause.) But I do not at all deserve the kind remarks you have made with reference to myself. No individual in our country is powerful enough to carry such extensive and enormous reforms as were lately promulgated with regard to naval defence; he must have support, and he must have the support of the electorate and of the press, and it was with the support of the electorate and press that this reform was carried. I only did what any other man in my position would have done. I happened to be independent. I did not want any orders or decorations. I am an Irish landlord, but still I have enough to live on—(laughter)—therefore I did not want any money. But I want to point out to you that I do not deserve the praise you have been good enough to give me. When it is said that I am the only officer that took up the question I would explain that it is because we are singularly short of officers who are independent. I have asked numbers of my brother officers, some of them Admirals now, who like myself were captains in those days, to come on the platform when I was speaking and support me. In could not get one to come, and their reasons for not doing so were common sense. They said, "You can do it. You don't care for anything or anybody, but if we do it we shall not get command of a ship or fleet, our prospects will be blighted." Well, I think that was a fair and reasonable argument. And I will go further and I am sure H.E. the Governor and General will agree with me—it would not be good for the services if you had a number of officers who went blundering about the country as I used to go—(laughter and applause)—with the most drastic and caustic criticism on the authority they were supposed to be under. (Applause.) I do not say that in connection with the reform I advocated I have not suffered certain indignities—you can call them snubs, and worse than snubs—from the ruling authorities, but if a man embarks on the work of reform he must smile at that; it is part of the profession he undertakes, and he must not be stopped one moment by such things. If I was in authority I am not at all sure I should like to see an individual like myself cruising about the country—(laughter and applause)—making caustic remarks, and not only that, but on many occasions winning his case against authority. (Applause.) Now, sir, if you will allow me, I will drop the personal question, which is certainly not very interesting, and I should like to speak for a moment on the question of the Navy League. The Navy League deserves all the praise and all the support every Britisher can give. The Navy League were the first that woke the people at home up to the fact that the Navy was insufficient in strength and numbers, and that it was lamentably deficient in all its auxiliaries of defence without which a fleet cannot work. (Ap-

plause.) And they did more. They pointed out that our naval bases were not adequately defended, that we had not enough docks, that we had no reserve ammunition, that our reserve of guns was far short of what we should require in time of war, that our Naval Reserve was a myth and in reality did not exist, and that when all other countries had their armies with their reserves it was very unwise for England to trust entirely to her first line of defence. Reserves of guns are necessary, reserves of ammunition are necessary, and I might run on for several minutes, perhaps hours, if I were to describe all the necessities of the case to make the Navy efficient, which the Navy League took up. Well, the British electorate are like other people, I suppose; when they have to pay a large sum of money they think everything is over; they regard it in the same light as if the money was expended on a brick wall; they think it is over and that no further expenditure is required for building other walls. But, thanks to the ingenuity of the mechanical engineer, we are always in a transition state, and to keep command of the sea we must keep pace with all developments, more especially when we see other countries taking advantage of that mechanical skill. Your chairman was good enough to say I was the founder of the Navy League. I must disclaim that. It was founded in this wise. There were a number of mercantile men in the city of London who were disturbed at what they heard about the Navy. They knew that a few of us were fighting this question and that if we were right in our contention something must be done. But it could not be left to individual officers. I spoke just now of the want of independence of the naval officer. That is very well exemplified here to-night. I dare say a great number of my brother officers were asked to come to this table. I think they were wise not to come. I suppose they all had prior engagements or were prevented by unforeseen circumstances. (A laugh). I don't blame them a bit. Anything of this character, a Navy League, must be supposed to be, though it is not, against authority, and therefore I say these naval officers are perfectly right, for it is the system of our Service, and ought always to be the system, that when officers are on full pay and there is any meeting that may be thought to be finding fault with authority they ought not to be there. Their duty to the country and to the Admiralty is to obey and not to criticise, and therefore my brother officers were right to have these prior engagements. (Applause.) With regard to the formation of the Navy League, a number of gentlemen came to me and said they wanted to form something of that character to wake up public opinion, and they wanted me to be the President. I said, "Gentlemen, you are paying me a most extravagant compliment, but I must decline. If you form an association representative of the great commercial classes the people are much more likely to listen to one of yourselves than to a naval officer, because the people will say that a naval officer had the idea that there is nothing like leather. Besides if I were your President, and I said this, that, and the other, people would say, 'Oh, that is only Charlie Beresford'—(laughter and applause)—whereas if you do it yourselves you will have the weight which civil opinion gives." Well, they agreed with that, and I believe that was the origin of the Navy League. Well, it is impossible to overrate the importance of the Navy League to our country. (Applause.) It comprises an enormous body of gentlemen in civil life and they take an enormous amount of trouble. They have worked under circumstances sometimes which have not been very satisfactory to themselves, because a certain amount of ridicule has been cast upon them, and they made one or two mistakes. They began by asking what sort of boilers, what sort of discipline, what sort of guns we should have, which are questions that can only be dealt with by experts; but what they do now is most excellent. (Applause.) They try to find out where the Navy is weak, and how it is weak, and they leave the expert to say how it should be put right. (Applause.) It is impossible to overrate the importance of the Navy League to Great Britain, and no branch outside England has done so much for the country as the

Navy League of Hongkong. The resolutions you have sent home have had the most excellent effect, and any gentleman who belongs to the Navy League here, if he had heard what I have heard relative to the resolutions sent home from Hongkong, would have been most gratified. I make bold to say the increase to the defences of this colony, which I have been over with the Commodore—and I have no hesitation in saying it will be a most valuable increase—is entirely due to the energetic action of the Navy League. (Applause.) That is an instance of what can be done here and what might be done elsewhere. (Applause.) The idea of the Navy League is gathering strength in other colonies and if it only pursues the course your Navy League has done in Hongkong, it will go a great way to secure effectively our outside dominions and colonies, and have them provided with proper naval bases and proper means of defence round the ports at which these bases are established. (Applause.) Sir, we must remember that we are traders and commercial people first and that our navies and armies are formed with one object, and that is for the security of our commerce. The Navy League is composed of mercantile people who have grasped that, and they have grasped that when they work for an increase of the navy or army they are working for nothing in the nature of defiance but something in the nature of defence. (Applause.) It has been said that the expenditure of money is enormous and one of our great statesmen who has since died held that it was wicked and wasteful to spend so much for defence, but the mercantile classes have realized that what is voted for what I might call the defence budget, for the Army and Navy, is simply a form of insurance. (Applause.) I remember very well saying to one of my brother officers who had said, "You have these ideas and are so enthusiastic; why don't you go into Parliament?"—I said, "I will as soon as I get on half pay." That is the only place, and it is quite right it should be the only place, where one can carry these things. You may yell and shout and bawl and riot; as long as you are not in Parliament you have not got that power to give effect to what you say. But I said there is another place we can go to, and that is the great Chambers of Commerce of our nation, and I firmly believe any little advance I have made has been carried because I did go to those Chambers. With regard to expenditure, we have during the last nine years spent on the navy £76,000,000 over and above the £12,000,000 a year that is required. Now what I want to know is, is there one working man who has had one glass of beer or one pipe of tobacco the less on account of that expenditure, or one rich man who has had a glass of champagne the less. The country has not felt it. Even if it had, it would have put its hand in its pocket all the same—(applause)—and contributed in the most generous way. (Applause.) I may say something now with regard to the Army. The country has been thoroughly awakened to the necessities of the case with regard to the Navy, but it has to be thoroughly awakened to the necessity of the case with regard to the Army. As I said in the few remarks I made in returning thanks for the Royal Navy just now, we must not run away with the idea that the Navy is the only arm. We have an army, an efficient army, a far more difficult army to manage than any other country on the face of the globe, because we have now too short a service to get a proper reserve, and our Army is on service all over the world under most extraordinary difficulties and contingencies of climate, and has to be relieved and bases of supply kept right at home, and if we were even to alter the shape of the projectile of one gun it would cost our own country so many hundreds of thousands, because we have that gun in every colony. I hope we shall have some sort of National League. I do not want to see the Navy League break up at all, because we shall have to go about, as you say in this country, "squeezing." We shall have to squeeze the country from time to time no doubt, but we must form some sort of National League of defence and thrash out the circumstances connected with the Army just as we did for the Navy. You must remember that during the last twelve years your empire has increased by two million square miles, and

you have added two regiments to your Army. (Laughter.) If you had conscription at home, which I hope we never shall have, you would not be able to police your vast dominions as they should be policed in the event of war. Imagine now a disturbance at the Cape—our friends the Boers might get disagreeable. (Laughter.) Imagine a disturbance in India—it took 64,000 men to quell the late disturbance. Imagine our friends at present, but possible antagonists, France and Russia, combining against us, where would you be without an efficient army? You take this country China. I saw it mentioned in the Press, and I had to get up in the House of Commons on two occasions; one was in answer to Mr. Balfour and one in answer to Lord Curzon; they both made the remark, "China will be all right as long as you keep a predominant fleet out there." For the first time in the history of our empire we have arrived at circumstances which are novel to us—the question with regard to China and the disturbance of our trade by Russia. This is essentially a military question. You may double your fleet out here; you may send fifteen ships like the *Victorious* out here and forty destroyers. What has that to do with the advancement of Russia to the south? It is, I say, a military and not a naval question. Our policy for years has been to avoid this task, to stick to the command of the sea, so that other countries could not land troops in our dominions. We have never had a "march," as they call it in Scotland, with any of the other great Powers. I think our people should be aware of this at home, and we should take some sort of steps rather in the line I mentioned to-day to the great Chamber of Commerce I addressed. I wanted to point out to you, and I think I have pointed out to you, what an inestimable benefit the Navy League has been to the Empire with regard to keeping the command of the sea, and we should have something of the same character to wake up the people at home as to the necessities for our further increasing our military line of defence. (Applause.) This question of money for defence I have already remarked is merely a rate of insurance. Our rate of insurance is ludicrously low. If you take the mercantile marine as a criterion, you will find that Russia pays fifteen guineas a ton; France pays eight guineas; Germany pays seven guineas; Italy pays four guineas; and we who are depending on the mercantile marine not only for our raw material, which gives the wage to the wage earning class, but for our staff of life, we pay two guineas per ton. Therefore our sinking fund, our rate of insurance, is not very extravagant. You must remember that we are an empire, and you may put it as you like, but the penalty of an empire is to have it adequately defended, and we cannot go on increasing the empire as we have been doing. I feel that we do not want to see any more of the chart marked red. (Applause.) We want to have trade and commerce secure, particularly in this country. We do not want any more territory, not one more acre in the world, but we do want our military force put in a proper state. (Applause.) While speaking about this, with regard to the country we are at present in, I should like to point out that both on the question of defence and on the question of the remarks I ventured to make to-day, these remarks if carried out are certain to benefit China more than any nation in the world. It is China that will benefit directly—(applause)—but England will benefit indirectly, and all nations will benefit by the development of the trade, the protection of trade, and the absolute security which only good military and police can give a country. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I cannot sit down without thanking you once more most warmly and gratefully for the great compliment paid me in asking me here to dinner to-night, and the enthusiasm with which you received my name when presented to you by your Chairman. (Loud applause.)

Colonel ELDALY proposed the toast of the Navy League, which was responded to by the Hon. H. E. POLLACK.

An incident of the evening, and one which we believe particularly impressed Lord Charles Beresford, was a speech made by Mr. Ho Tung thanking his Lordship for his visit. Mr. HO TUNG said:—Mr. Chair-

man, your Excellency and gentlemen, I rise with reflections of the great honour you have done me to thank our noble guest Lord Charles Beresford, for the interest which he has taken in the China trade—(applause)—on behalf of the Chinese gentlemen here in this room, and those who are not in this room—in fact, on behalf of the people of the great Empire of China, for the great question which he has undertaken, namely, the open door. (Applause.) As his Lordship has suggested and honestly said to-day and this evening, the open door question will benefit entirely and specially China herself, although Great Britain from her position will benefit indirectly. To-day I met a Chinese who said to me, "Well, Mr. Ho Tung, there is no European nation which would like to see China strong." I said to him, "You are quite mistaken. Some of you people are ignorant of the ideas and the true objects of the nations of Europe in general and Great Britain in particular; their object is to strengthen China and put her into a proper state of efficiency. It will be indirectly an advantage to all other nations, because when China is in a better state of civilization, and the people come more into contact with Europeans, I make bold to say trade and commerce will a hundred fold increase." (Applause.) I have listened to-day very attentively to the remarks made by His Lordship to the Chamber of Commerce and also the remarks made this evening, and I only regret that there is not one Minister in China who is of the same type as His Lordship. (Applause.) I must congratulate His Lordship most heartily on the thorough grasp of the situation he has secured during his very short stay in China. I dare say you will agree with me that there is no one in this world who could have done better than His Lordship. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I did not know that I was to be called upon to make a speech, but I have done what I could under the circumstances. I have been called upon suddenly, and I say that to-night's dinner is one of the best given by Europeans and Chinese collectively in the colony. I hope this will be the forerunner of many future dinners of this sort. Personally, I am a great believer in the open door. (Applause.) I have studied the Chinese question, and speaking as I am from a commercial point of view, I fully concur in His Lordship's remarks upon his great undertaking. I am sure his Lordship will be able to convince his fellow countrymen to follow him in giving the object he has in view. (Applause.) Sir, with these few remarks, I ask all the Chinese gentlemen in this room to thank his Lordship most heartily and warmly for the deep interest he has taken in Chinese affairs. (Loud applause.)

Mr. T. JACKSON proposed the health of the Chairman, which was received with musical honours, and Captain HASTINGS having briefly replied, the proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

SHOULD REFORM OF THE CHINESE ARMY PRECEDE REFORM OF THE FINANCES?

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD'S OPINION.

Lord Charles Beresford was entertained to tiffin by the local branch of the China Association at the Hongkong Club on 4th January. Reporters were not invited, the proceedings being semi-private, but mention may be made of one important point touched upon.

Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., the Chairman, in proposing the health of the distinguished guest, expressed the opinion that China's chief need was reform of her finances and that this question should take precedence of the reform of the army.

Lord CHARLES BERESFORD in the course of his reply said he admitted all that Mr. Francis had said as to the importance of financial reform, but he pointed to the case of Egypt, in which country all attempts to reform the finances failed until there was an organised army to enforce the policy of the Government. His Lordship predicted that any attempt to reform the finances of China under existing conditions would lead to disturbances all over the country and argued that a trained army was therefore necessary to preserve order during the transition period.

THE CHINAMAN AS A SOLDIER.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD'S VIEWS.

In dealing with the question of the re-organisation of the Chinese army, at the meeting held in the City Hall on Tuesday afternoon, Lord Charles Beresford spoke of the Chinaman as a soldier. He said he did not know any nation which had more of the characteristics required in soldiers. They were sober, obedient, easily managed, and quick to learn. If they were well led, if their contract was kept as to their wages being paid on the first of the month, and they were properly fed and clothed, he believed they would make splendid soldiers. His Lordship mentioned two incidents in connection with the war with Japan. In one case the body of a General who was killed was found surrounded by those of hundreds of his soldiers, and in another case so devoted to their General were some twenty Chinamen who lay wounded in the hospital that when the latter went out to meet the Japanese every one of them went out of the hospital and followed him, five of them having to be carried by their comrades, so badly wounded were they. They did not want anything better than that to show that these men would fight. (Hear hear.) Let them go back to our own history. In our own troubles with China, who were the people who fought so well and were mentioned so frequently in the despatches? Why, the coolies, men picked up in the streets of Hongkong, who were shot down in hundreds while putting scaling ladders against the enemy's ramparts. His Lordship repeated that if treated fairly and led properly the Chinese made just as good soldiers as any other nation.

I CAME, I SAW, I ? OR MY EASTERN TOUR.

Manchester's getting anxious.
Merchants are getting afraid.
What's become of our profits?
Where is our Eastern trade?

I started off in a hurry.
Manchester said, "Goodbye;
"Keep your eyes wide open."
"Hark to the merchant's cry!"

"Travel all up the country.
"Wander along the coast.
"See what the Chinaman's doing.
"He's getting us all on toast."

I rushed all over the country.
I hastened through every port,
Like a sort of human whirlwind,
Setting time and space at naught.

I knocked at the door of the Palace.
I rang at the Minister's bell.
I looked in on the Tsungli Yamen
And heard what they had to tell.

I was crammed with "Spheres of influence."
I was stuffed with "the open door."
I was scared by the Russian Bear,
And charged by the German Boar.

I was "cornered" by every merchant.
I was "put up" by every Bank.
I was told that "Spheres of influence"
In Far Eastern nostrils stank.

I was dinned by every Chamber
And feted on every side,
And if I'd stopped much longer
I think that I must have died.

I've samples of every opinion
Which in China's to be found,
And with these, and my own impressions,
For the Dear Homeland I'm bound.

I'm off back now in a hurry,
Once more o'er the ocean's foam;
But I haven't the key to the puzzle,
For I left the key at home.

Manchester's getting anxious.
Merchants are getting afraid.
What's become of our profits?
Where is our Eastern trade!

LOSS OF THE "GLENAVON."

CHIEF OFFICER DIXON AND OTHERS MISSING.

QUARTER-MASTER SMITH DIES FROM EXHAUSTION.

31st December.

Yesterday morning Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., agents for the Glen line of steamers, which are owned by Messrs. Macgregor, Gow and Co., of London, received information that the *Glenavon* (Captain Pithie), which left Hongkong at about five o'clock the previous evening, had struck a rock when she had been about two hours at sea and gone down. The passengers and almost the whole of the crew were saved and have been landed in Hongkong. Chief Officer Dixon, and Second Steward Wilson are missing, and Quarter-master Smith, who swam ashore, died from exhaustion.

When the *Glenavon* left Hongkong, bound for Singapore and London, she had several passengers on board, including a Mrs. Hadley and child and two discharged seamen—Frank Lowe (from Shanghai) and John Gardiner (from Hongkong). She had a mixed cargo of about 6,600 tons, the greater portion being tea and rice, and she carried eight bags of mails, of which five were saved. These were sent on by the *Sumatra*, which left yesterday morning. Though somewhat damaged by water the addresses were perfectly legible. The three bags lost contained three parcels of mails from Yokohama, two from Kobe, one from Nagasaki, two for the Netherlands India agent, and one from Manila to the *Raleigh*.

At the time of writing some uncertainty exists as to the exact location of the rock on which the vessel struck. She passed Linting Island, which is about a dozen miles from Green Island, at about half-past six, and as it was about three-quarters of an hour afterwards that she came to grief the presumption is that she was then in the vicinity of Shamun Island ("There Gates"). The Captain and Chief Officer Dixon were on the bridge and Quarter-master Smith was at the wheel. It was noticed that her bottom touched and immediately afterwards the crash came. The order "Full speed astern" was at once given and executed without loss of time, the Captain in the meantime sending down below to ascertain the extent of the damage. He thought he might possibly be able to return to Hongkong, but he soon found that it would be hopeless to attempt this, as the vessel was rapidly filling up in the forehold, the water pouring in in great volumes through four gaping apertures. He accordingly turned her head towards the land with the object of beaching her, but this he was prevented from doing by the vessel going down head-first about half an hour after she had struck. In the meantime rockets were fired in the hope of attracting assistance, but they do not appear to have been noticed. The glare of Gap Rock lighthouse could be seen in the distance, but it was too far away for those in charge to see the distressed vessel. The order to get out the boats had also been given, and notwithstanding the obstacles placed in the way by the panic-stricken Chinese, many of whom jumped into the boats before they could be lowered and had to be pulled out again, the order seems to have been obeyed with promptitude. When the last boat had been lowered there remained on the vessel Captain Pithie, Chief Officer Dixon, Quarter-master Smith, Second Engineer Boyd, and Second Steward Wilson. These, like most of those in the boats, had provided themselves with life-belts, and when they saw that the vessel was doomed they jumped overboard. Second Steward Wilson and Chief Officer Dixon swam for the boats, but the others made straight for the land, which was about a mile and a half away, and after a terrible struggle, the sea being somewhat rough, they succeeded in reaching it. Quarter-master Smith was, however, so exhausted that he died and his dead body was placed out of the reach of the water whilst his comrades commenced to search for assistance. On getting on to the other side of the island, which they subsequently discovered to be Linting, they came across the occupants of one

of the boats, who had landed a little higher up, and were fortunate enough to attract the attention of a junk, which took them to Cheung Chau Customs Station, whence they were sent to Hongkong.

The first boat which was launched was in charge of Second Officer Clifton and was occupied by Mrs. Hadley and child, Miss Crocker (the stewardess), the discharged seamen Rowe and Gardiner, four Chinese passengers, an Indian passenger, and four Chinese members of the crew. The boat cruised about for some time, as did the others. The sea was much too rough to think of attempting to reach Hongkong in the boat, as the water was continually washing over the occupants, who were soon drenched to the skin. They ultimately met with a fishing junk, which brought them on to Hongkong. While they were cruising about they fell in with the third boat, in which were Third Officer Ainsley, Chief Officer Dixon, some Chinese, and, it is thought, Second Steward Wilson. The boat was half-full of water and the occupants asked them for something with which to bale it out, but they were unable to supply them, and it is accordingly feared that the boat has been swamped.

In the second boat, which was in charge of Chief Engineer W. Stratton, were P. Phelps (third engineer), A. Morton (fourth officer), G. Milne (carpenter), W. Wilson (chief steward), W. H. Black, F. Salmon, J. D. Evans (quarter-masters), W. Sweetman (storekeeper), Dr. Wallace (surgeon), and four Chinese. They also were fortunate enough to come across a junk, and reached Hongkong soon after the first boat.

The last boat to leave the ship contained the fourth engineer (Dougal), the lamp-trimmer (W. Clark), and about a dozen Chinamen. These, as before stated, made straight for the land, and meeting the Captain and the others who had swum ashore they all got on board a junk.

Immediately news of the catastrophe arrived in Hongkong steps were taken to succour the missing. It was at first thought that the captain had in all probability perished. The Chief Engineer lost no time in securing a launch and going out to the scene of the wreck. The Hon. R. M. Rumsey, Harbour Master, also went out in order to locate the wreck, and the services of H.M.S. *Rattler* were also called into requisition. Mr. A. P. MacEwen (of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co.) called upon Admiral Seymour, who at his request kindly recalled the *Rattler*, which had already left the harbour for Manila and was passing through the Lyeemun Pass, and requested Captain Hardinge to proceed immediately to the scene of the wreck.

Since the above was written we have been informed that Ainsley has been picked up by a Chinese cruiser, so that all the passengers and crew have been accounted for with the exception of four—Chief Officer Dixon, Second Steward Wilson, and two Chinese. Captain Pithie purposes going out to search for the missing ones to-day.

The *Glenavon* was an iron screw steamer of 1,912 tons register. She was 360 feet long, 34 feet wide, and 24 feet deep, and had engines of 330 horse power. She was built in Glasgow in 1881, and classed 100 A1 at Lloyds. There are a dozen steamers in the Glen line. Nine of them have accommodation for passengers, and carry a doctor and stewardess, and of these nine the *Glenavon* was one.

THE CHIEF OFFICER'S BODY FOUND.

31st December.

An exhaustive search in the neighbourhood of the wreck for the missing was made on Friday but without result. Harbour Master Rumsey and Boarding Officer E. J. Meugens, together with the P. and O. gunner (G. Razavet), went out in the *Dragon* with the object of rendering what assistance they could to any survivors who might be found, taking with them a supply of provisions. They sailed along the east coast of Linting and then cruised about the Samoun group, but could see no signs of the wreck or of any of the missing. After passing the Samoun Islands they came across the *Rattler* and a launch, which were on a similar errand. They subsequently saw a launch which was towing a boat in which were third Officer Ainsley and some Chinese, who had been picked up by the

Macao boat, but nothing was seen of either chief officer Dixon or second steward Wilson.

3rd January.

On Sunday Captain Pithie went out and found the body of Chief Officer Dixon on Linting Island, it having been washed ashore. He brought it to Hongkong, and yesterday it was interred in the Cemetery at Happy Valley, together with that of Quarter-master Smith, the surviving officers of the *Glenavon* and many friends being present. The remains were buried side by side. The Rev. G. J. Williams conducted a very impressive burial service at the grave.

6th January.

The body of second steward Wilson, of the *Glenavon*, is still missing. Another launch went out to search for it yesterday.

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE.

ALMOST A CRISIS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND INSURGENT FORCES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 21st December.

Relations between the Americans and Filipinos approached nearer a crisis this morning than at any time since the occupation of Manila. As the officer of the day was posting his guards last night, the sentry on the bridge at Paco, in the outskirts of the city, was moved into position on the highest point of the structure (in the middle) according to the new orders. This bridge is guarded on the city side by Americans and on the country side by the Filipinos. It is very narrow and of no importance except as marking a boundary. Up to last night both sentries walked their ends of the bridge, and when the American was moved up to the centre the natives objected, and, drawing their men into guard formation, the Americans were told that if their guards were not off the centre point of the bridge by nine o'clock the following morning they would be fired upon. The officer hurried back to town and reported the state of affairs. At nine o'clock the following morning seven thousand troops were lined up to meet the insurgent fire. True to their word some insurgents were there, and a conference was held between the representatives of Generals Anderson and Aguinaldo. As the result the sentry was put back to the old position; the Filipinos carried their point, and the Americans had a dusty march back to barracks.

It is just such affairs as this that keep up the constant friction between the forces. Aguinaldo may be recognized or he may not, but certainly such a demonstration as was held to-day is a long way toward a recognition of the insurgents as an armed people and nation, and as such holding a conference with them.

AMERICAN TROOPS DEPART FOR ILOILO.

26th December.

Brigadier-General Miller and staff will leave Manila with an expedition for Iloilo this morning. Notice has already been sent to Iloilo by an army officer, who left here Saturday night, of the coming of the troops. The transports *Arizona*, *Newport*, and *Pennsylvania* will carry the 18th U.S. Regular Regiment, a division of the 6th Light Battery, U.S.A., and the 51st Regt. Iowa Volunteers. The *Baltimore* represents the navy.

If the Spaniards are yet in possession the difficulty will not be grave, but if they have evacuated and the insurgents are in force, some trouble is anticipated by the army. Practically nothing is known of the development of the situation during the last week. Many are of the opinion that the Filipinos are now in possession, but as no news has been received during the last six days, and the cable is not in order, nothing reliable can be said.

The general opinion is that matters can be adjusted in a very few weeks. The Postmaster goes with the troops and will establish postal communication in all its branches.

Three Filipinos who live in Jaro, just opposite Iloilo, are passengers on the *Newport*. They are men of influence and may be of some value in treating with their countrymen.

The great frequency of fires at Canton this season is attributed to incendiaryism. It is said that one of the methods adopted by the incendiaries is to dip a cat in kerosine, set it on fire, and let it run into a house.

AMERICAN EXPEDITION AT ILOILO.**2,400 TROOPS TO BE LANDED.****QUIET AND ORDERLY FILIPINOS.****[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]**

Iloilo, 28th December.

At daylight of 27th December the ships were abreast of Batangas Bay, the place where the well known steamer *Abbey* was seized by the U.S. revenue cutter *McCulloch*. A close watch was kept for any steamer coming from the south, and the *Baltimore*, following no direct course, looked into bays and around the island points. At noon smoke was discovered away down on the horizon toward the south-east and by one o'clock the new comer was alongside and turned out to be the *Butuan*, used as a dispatch boat to carry Colonel Potter to Iloilo. The expedition was stopped, the Colonel came aboard the *Newport* to confer with General Miller and was joined by Capt. Dyer of the *Baltimore*. Colonel Potter reported the Insurgents in possession and the Spanish gone to Mindanao Island. The Insurgents had a city government in full swing and everything quiet. This was the first news of a reliable character and it was a relief to know the situation. After a consultation Colonel Potter proceeded to Manila and the expedition continued on to Iloilo.

As morning broke on the 28th inst. we were skirting along the east shore of Panay and by eleven o'clock had passed the bend and dropped anchor, a few hundred yards from the cruiser *Irene*, just off the city of Iloilo. By nine o'clock the *Newport* was in a position to defend herself if necessary, under instructions from Captain Bridgman, of the 6th artillery. Gattling guns were mounted at both side hatches and two Hotchkiss guns 1.65 calibre were put in position forward.

Shortly after we had come to anchor, a steam launch put off from shore bringing the mayor of Iloilo and two aids, to visit the General Miller and enquire the intentions of the Americans in coming into the harbour. The General told them that everything would be explained in a letter which he would send to Martin Delgado, their General. After a short delay the three native officials, accompanied by three Filipinos, who were brought down on the *Newport*, returned to the city and with them went Lieut. Barrall, who carried General Miller's letter.

On landing, the party proceeded to the Government building, over which a Filipino flag was flying, and there met three members of an executive committee, the Provost Marshall, and General Delgado. This committee was the executive body of the revolution in Panay until 12th December, at which time it was reformed and became the committee of the Federated State of Bisayas.

Ramon Avanceña acted as chairman and opened the meeting by asking if the Americans had held consultation with or bore instructions from Aguinaldo and was surprised to learn that we did not. General Miller's letter was translated. Briefly it states that the Americans had come to take possession of Iloilo according to treaty and agreement with Spain, that they believed that Spain was still in possession, but found that the Filipinos occupied the place.

The committee asked until to-morrow afternoon to consider the question, which was granted to them, and so the matter rested. They assured the Americans of their great friendship and hoped that nothing would destroy it. When the chairman of the committee was questioned upon the attitude of the southern states and islands toward Luzon he said, "This state is one of a federation of states; we are waiting to learn the situation in the archipelago; the committee constitutes the will of the people and what it says is final, that is in so far as it affects questions left to the discretion of a federated state; but we depend absolutely upon Luzon and cannot decide important questions without communicating with the seat of government in Luzon. We can decide anything that does not affect the unity and integrity of the republic." Thus in a single sentence are refuted all the stories of separate republics and petty leaders independent of Aguinaldo, existing among the Iloilo or Panay Filipinos.

General Delgado was informed that the *Arizona* and *Pennsylvania* would be brought up in the morning from a position they had taken up some fifteen miles on the lee of a small island. He was also told that the Americans might find it expedient to land some or all of the troops until such time as they would be distributed to other Spanish towns. No objection was made, but he asked that his answer to be delivered to-morrow afternoon should be considered first.

The Americans have come just a few hours too late to carry the expedition to its best conclusion. On Saturday last both sides would have welcomed them. To-day the Spaniards are gone and the Insurgents having once tasted power are loth to give it up. Yet they are sincere in their protestations of friendship. It is a more difficult question to-day than four days ago; from all indications the policy of the expedition is to use no force at all unless absolutely necessary and it is not likely that it will be necessary. It is hardly possible that the Filipinos will have an answer by the appointed time to-morrow; in fact in the face of their statement of dependency upon Luzon it would be possible for them to put matters off indefinitely if they wish.

Iloilo is as clean, well kept, and orderly a town as can well be pictured; it is a thousand times cleaner than Manila and some attempt seems to be made at drainage. There was absolutely no looting or conduct of any kind unworthy of a civilized people. When the Spanish left on Saturday last for Zamboanga on Mindanao, it is stated that an agreement existed between them and the natives that the latter should not come into town until Monday noon. They kept the compact and marched into the Plaza in an orderly manner and went through the ceremony of flag hoisting. A very good local government is running to-day and the foreign residents report favourably of them; the post office, custom house, and government offices are entirely in their hands. It remains to be seen how all this will be changed by the ships now in the harbour.

FILIPINO PROTEST TO THE UNITED STATES.

We are informed that the following has been telegraphed to the Associated Press for publication immediately in at least 3,000 newspapers in the States and Europe:—"The present serious crisis in the Philippines is entirely due to overt acts and unfair treatment of the Filipinos by the United States. Information obtained in Manila shows that General Otis has received orders to take the whole of the Philippines and that troops despatched to Visayas, in south, are under orders to take Iloilo notwithstanding that it is known the whole of the Visayas, including Iloilo, are in full possession of Filipino national forces. The Filipinos are determined to prevent landing of American forces at Iloilo and may, as last resort and for strategic purposes, destroy the city of Iloilo. A rupture of friendly relations between national Filipino Government and the United States Executive in Manila is imminent and hostilities in the Visayas are probable unless unreasonable, unfair and overbearing policy of the Americans is not modified. Filipinos would deeply regret rupture but will, although through no fault of their own, accept the inevitable Filipinos appeal to the American people to uphold the rights of mankind and avoid unnecessary bloodshed; also assure Americans of their earnest desire for complete friendly settlement of all questions and impartial investigation by special Commissioners. Filipinos have loyally supported and cooperated with Americans against a common enemy and look to the American nation to fulfil promises made to Aguinaldo in Singapore by United States officials before Aguinaldo proceeded to assist and cooperate with Admiral Dewey. All the Filipinos ask is that they be allowed to enjoy the truest and best rights of mankind. This is all they ever asked for."

At the Magistracy on Saturday two Chinamen who described themselves as officials from the Honam district were charged with attempting to steal jewellery to the value of \$560 from the shop of Messrs. Ullmann and Company, Queen's Road Central, and were sentenced to six months' hard labour.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 5th January. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. J. Dyer Ball (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, and Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary).

THE RUMOURED OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE.**AT CANTON.**

Mr. Mansfield, Acting Consul at Canton, having been requested by the Acting Colonial Secretary to make enquiries as to the existence of plague in Canton and neighbourhood, wrote:—

"I have the honour to state as the result of my enquiries that plague is not known to exist either in Canton or its neighbourhood. The Catholic Bishop, who has excellent means of obtaining information, says he has not heard of the existence of plague except in the Hongkong paper a week ago, and in that a village is mentioned which he has never heard of. Dr. Kerr has also made enquiries and can hear of no cases. Of course it is possible that there may have been sporadic cases, but I cannot even hear of such. Dr. Chung is making searching enquiry in native hospitals and such like establishments, and will communicate the result. His Excellency the Governor may rest assured that he will receive early notice from me of any disease which may assume an epidemic form in this port or its vicinity."

The Acting Registrar General minuted—"I hear from a private source that there have been cases of plague in Canton and neighbourhood. Within the last few weeks a native doctor is said to have attended several cases, some of which had come into Canton from the Namhoi district, and some were on the island of Honam, opposite Canton."

The following report of Dr. Chung, of the Tung Wah Hospital, of his investigation into the prevalence of plague in Canton and its neighbourhood was submitted:—

"I have the honour to report that I went to Canton on the 26th ult. by the night-boat *Tai-on* to investigate into the presence of plague stated to be prevalent there."

"Shortly after my arrival on the 27th I visited the Canton Hospital and interviewed Dr. Kerr, who informed me that there is no plague in Canton at present. On leaving his home I met (Miss) Dr. Wiles, who has a very large practice among Chinese families in various parts of the city, and she too is of opinion that plague does not exist in the city or its suburbs at present."

"On the morning of the 28th ult. I went to the native Kwong Chai Hospital, where I found about 100 out-patients waiting to be seen. I stood by and personally examined the patients while the consultation was going on. I found that most of them were suffering from chest complaints and some from intermittent fever and bowel complaints, but there was no case of plague. I walked round the hospital and found that there were only 20 patients in the wards, though the hospital has accommodation for 100 patients. The director and doctors of that hospital informed me that there have been a good many cases of fever and influenza, and they attributed them to the long absence of rain."

"From enquiries made at the druggist and coffin shops in various parts of the city and suburbs I learned that business in both was unusually dull."

"I am glad to bring to your notice that a Sanitary Bureau has been formed in Canton by a number of progressive Chinese literati with the sanction of the authorities. It has branch offices in different parts of the city. Its objects are to remove accumulations of refuse, to sweep the streets, and to clean away filth from drains."

"On the 29th I visited Fatshan, a large commercial town about ten miles S.W. of Canton, and interviewed Dr. Anderson of the Wesleyan Mission Hospital. He informed me that he had seen three cases (two men and a woman) of plague in villages near Fatshan within the last ten days, and they were all in the last stage of the disease. He was of opinion that occasional cases had been occurring ever since the last epidemic which broke out in the Spring of 1898."

"I next made investigation at the various druggist shops in that town and found that familiar prescriptions containing drugs which are said to be specific cures for plague are occasionally being sent to them to be dispensed."

"On my way to Canton I visited many villages along the river, but I was unable to obtain any reliable information regarding the existence of plague, and I did not see any signs of mourning over the doors of houses in those villages."

"On the 30th I again called on Dr. Kerr for further information, but he had seen no reason to change the opinion he expressed three days previously."

"I next made investigation in Honam, Fong Chuen, and Fatei, and learned that there has been a good deal of intermittent fever and respiratory disease among the inhabitants, but I heard of no plague."

"A salt merchant in whose house I was staying in Canton, showed me a letter which he had recently received from a partner in Shin Kwan, near the north border of Kwang-tung Province, containing a statement that plague is very prevalent there and that about 3,000 of the inhabitants have died of it, but the letter did not mention within what period the deaths had occurred."

"The conclusions I draw from this enquiry are:—(1) That there has been no plague or only sporadic cases in Canton since the last epidemic in the spring of 1898; (2) that the rumours of the presence of an infectious disease in Canton and the neighbouring villages have arisen from the prevalence of influenza and malarial fevers; (3) that sporadic cases of plague are occurring in Fatshan and its vicinity; (4) that plague probably exists to some extent along the North River. Regarding this Dr. Lawson will probably be able to give some information."

Mr. J. DYER BALL had given notice of his intention of moving the following resolution:—"That in view of the alleged rerudescence of bubonic plague in Canton and its neighbourhood the Government be asked to take steps for the medical inspection of passengers from Canton whether arriving by river steamer or by native craft." He said he thought it would be seen that he did not move without some cause and did not act the part of a mere alarmist, because he held in his hand a letter which he received a few days ago quite spontaneously from a gentleman in Canton. The gist of the letter he had given in his note. He might add that the writer also stated in a postscript, "It is quite possible there are more cases than the Chinese care to admit, as they seem to me to conceal rather than make known the existence of plague." He would beg leave to call attention to a slight error made by one of the members of the Board at the previous meeting. This member said inspection had proved utterly futile. He believed, however, that five cases of plague were discovered in the course of the inspection. Having said this much, in the face of the report of Dr. Chung and the letter from the British consul he begged to withdraw his notice of motion. At the same time he thought there was evidence that the plague was in the neighbourhood of Canton. The report of Dr. Chung said that several hundreds had died at Shin Kwan. This was some distance from Canton and a long way from Hongkong, so that there was no danger of its reaching here from there. But they ought to keep constant watch. If the plague in the province mentioned increased from a sporadic to an epidemic form Hongkong would be exposed to danger.

The VICE-PRESIDENT.—Have you information from Dr. Lawson as to the place mentioned by Dr. Chung?

The PRESIDENT said Dr. Lawson had just returned from the district and he informed him that he made most careful enquiries all along the North River. It was rumoured that there was a case of plague about 40 miles from Canton, but on investigation he found no one knew the name of the village or where it was. Dr. Lawson visited many villages himself and did not see a case, so that he thought from the information before them plague was not prevalent either at Canton or the immediate neighbourhood.

AMENDING BYE-LAWS.

A letter was submitted from Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) suggesting that a bye-law be drafted for the approval of the

Legislative Council fixing the charge for cattle at any of the cattle depots at two cents per head per day, which up to the present time had been the usual fee.

The Bye-laws of 1895 were, on the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, repealed, and on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, it was decided to submit to the Legislative Council amended Bye-laws incorporating the suggestion of Mr. Ladds.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality statistics for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended December 17th show a death rate of 15.3, against 25.1 for the previous week and 17.7 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the succeeding week was 18.3, against 18.7 for the corresponding week last year.

The mortality returns for Macao showed 5 deaths for the week ended December 11th and 62 for the succeeding week.

The Board then adjourned.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on work done at the Company's mines in Pahang during the month of November, 1898:—

MINING AND PROSPECTING.

Jalis August Shaft Level No. 3.—Prospecting Winze No. 1.—This was discontinued, the lode and ore on which it was being sunk having entirely cut out. 27 feet was driven northerly from near the bottom of this winze, through low grade ore (milling 2.48 dwt. per ton).

Prospecting Winze No. 2.—This was sunk 14 feet through almost barren ground. At that depth 29 feet was driven easterly, crossing what is apparently a lode running northerly and southerly, some 3 feet thick, but of no payable value. This is what was known as the "slide," above, and gave payable stone in places, I am told. Immediately east of and putting against this is what is known as the East and West lode, which the drive is on the strike of, but nothing payable shows therein.

Tankong Level No. 1, West drive.—This was continued 36 feet on the lode, which is about the same as before, well defined, some 3 feet thick. The ore is low grade and refractory, not payable by amalgamation though perhaps so with concentration, which we are preparing for now.

East Drive.—This was driven easterly 29 feet directly opposite the West drive on the lode, it being therein of the same character, and value as in the West drive.

North Drive.—This was continued 2ft. 6in., proving we were through the lode driving on and stopped, but in its face are bunches of quartz and further prospecting may be done here later.

Machinery.—Winding engine from one of the shafts at the Jalis Mine was put in place here.

New Find.—Prospecting the apex of this lode was continued, but nothing of value or but little promise proven.

South Tankong.—Nothing further was done in the shaft here, but surface prospecting resumed, and a continuation of the good ore recently had in limited quantities, on the surface, developed. It is not yet proven if there is a reef of any importance here or not. The quartz does not as a rule carry payable gold, but the gold occurs in soft and more or less decomposed stuff along the line of supposed reef. Such ore as has been got mills about an ounce per ton. Work is being pushed vigorously to prove what this place may amount to. Not being thought to be the same lode or mineral body as "Tankong" and for convenience its name has been changed to "Manik."

Middle Tankong.—35ft. was driven in prospecting here when work was discontinued, the prospecting showing nothing of value or promise. The quartz appears to be more of a "blow out" than a lode and of such low grade as not to seem to warrant further work, though developments at Tankong and South Tankong (or Manik), between which two places it is, may make it advisable to do something more here later.

Kalampeng, Adit Tunnel.—No. 1 Drive West driven 7 feet; No. 1 Drive East driven 20 feet; No. 2 Drive West.—These were merely driven as prospecting tunnels on lodes or lode formation and developing nothing of value or promise were all discontinued.

Drive No. 2 East.—This was continued 61 feet on leaders in the hope of their leading to an ore body.

Salango.—Cleaning out old workings and surface prospecting was pushed here, but no lode of value found as yet.

West Jalis.—Nothing payable or of seeming promise being found, work was discontinued here.

Hadjji.—Surface prospecting was continued here, but nothing "in place" located.

Guban.—Nothing was done, awaiting completion of road and arrangements necessary to enable pumping and hoisting machinery to be brought here.

Mulumet.—The cleaning out of old workings here was commenced and a small vein shown therein. So far as could be determined there is some very good grade ore here, but not found in sufficient quantities to amount to anything as yet.

Sunghei Rusa.—The old workings here were cleaned out and a drive on the lode showing in adit tunnel began, but nothing payable found.

Sunghei Sur.—This is a reef discovered by Malays in the Bukit Sarong Section never worked before. Surface prospecting has not as yet shown anything of value or much promise.

REDUCTION WORKS.

Mill Stamps.—These were run time equal to 27 days 20 hours continuous run.

Pans.—Part of these only were in condition to be run.

Ore and product were treated for amalgam and bullion as follows:—

	Tons.	Amalgam.	Bullion
Ore crushed.	Ounces.	Ounces.	Ounces.
Headings	2657.5	434.7	159.1
Tankong (old ore dump)	115.5	6.5	2.4
Jalis...	26.5	9.	3.3
Tankong (Level No. 1) ...	65.	7.	2.6
South Tankong (or Manik)	80.	154.55	65.5
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Pans.—	Total. 2924.5		
Old tailings (not calcined)		43.25	
Sundry Buddle Concentrates		15.0	16.3
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total	656.50	240.2	

Bullion assay here, Gold 86.06 fine, Silver 121.9 fine or a value, figuring silver at 2s. per oz. of £3 13s 4d.

Cyanide Works.—These were operated part time only and on a small scale; more or less experimental. No final clean up was made during the month so results have not been determined.

GENERAL.

Transport.—The supply of bullocks for transportation continues very short.

Water Power—This was short a very little while owing to our having no rain for about two weeks and our dam having very little storage capacity.

Rainfall.—14.315 inches at manager's house.

Health.—Generally very fair.

Timber and Firewood.—This is plentiful in the jungle.

Labour.—The supply of labour has been about equal to our needs.

TAIKOO SPORTS.

EIGHTH ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEETING.

The eighth annual athletic meeting took place at Quarry Bay on 2nd January in the presence of a large number of spectators, the weather being particularly favourable for the occasion. The ground, itself a pretty little spot, was made gay with bunting, whilst the promoters did all they could to make their guests comfortable. Mr. W. Armstrong carried off the championship cup (presented by Mr. J. H. Scott). At the conclusion of the proceedings Mrs. Poate distributed the prizes. By the kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Retallack and officers, the Band of the Hongkong Regiment played during the afternoon. The following were the officials:

President—Mr. Walter Poate.

Committee.—Messrs. W. Armstrong, J. Dickie, R. Dickson, C. Blake, J. Lochead, D. Currie, T. Grimshaw, J. Coils.

Judges.—Messrs. John Rodger, and J. Coils.
Time-keepers.—Messrs. H. McKenzie, C. Lesbirel, and J. Blake.

Clerks of the Course.—R. Dickson, W. Hardwick.

Handicappers.—Messrs. F. Lammert, C. Blake, and T. Grimshaw.

Stewards.—Messrs. R. Berwick, Jun., and W. Ireland.

Lap Scorer.—Mr. W. Farmer.

Starter.—Mr. R. Aitken.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. T. Grimshaw.

100 YARDS' FLAT RACE HANDICAP (confined); first prize presented by Kowloon Dock staff, second prize presented by O and H.

W. Armstrong, scratch ... 1

D. Currie, 7 yds. start ... 2

J. W. Hance, 7 yds. start ... 3

ONE MILE BICYCLE NOVICE RACE (open); first prize presented by Messrs. McKirdy and Co., second by Mr. Chun Sew.

T. Benning ... 1

A. E. Alves ... 2

PUTTING THE SHOT; open to China Sugar Refinery, Docks, and Victoria Recreation Club; prize presented by China Sugar Refinery staff.

W. Armstrong ... 1

R. Perrie ... 2

FOUR MILE BICYCLE RACE (open); first prize presented by Mr. R. L. Scott, second prize presented by Mr. Ah Poi.

R. Henderson, 530 yds. start ... 1

J. Logan, 400 yds. start ... 2

F. M. Roza Pereira, 700 yds. start ... 3

220 YARDS FLAT RACE HANDICAP (confined); first prize presented by V.R.C., second by Mr. J. Blake.

J. H. Hance, 16 yds. start ... 1

D. Currie, 15 yds. start ... 2

W. Armstrong, scratch ... 3

THROWING THE HAMMER (open to China Sugar Refinery, Docks, and V.R.C.); prize presented by Messrs. Carmichael and Company, Limited.

T. McKay (68 ft.) ... 1

T. Shand ... 2

R. Perrie ... 3

TWO MILE BICYCLE RACE (open to those who have not won a 1st prize during the seasons of 1897-98); first prize "The Clement Cup," presented by Messrs. Levy Hermanos, 2nd prize by Mr. Ah Kam.

J. C. Logan, 10 yds. start ... 1

A. E. Alves, 60 yds. start ... 2

J. Livingstone, 60 yds. start ... 3

Time—5 mins. 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE (open to the China Sugar Refinery, Docks, and Victoria Recreation Club); first prize presented by M.B.K., second presented by Mr. Jack A. Young.

W. Armstrong, scratch ... 1

J. C. Hance, 15 yds. start ... 2

D. Currie, 20 yds. start ... 3

Time—55 secs.

HIGH JUMP (confined); prize presented by Mrs. Poate.

W. Armstrong (4 ft. 4 in) ... 1

F. W. White ... 2

J. H. R. Hance ... 3

VETERANS' BICYCLE RACE (handicap); open to all comers over 35 years of age and who have been ten years in the East; distance one mile, and ten yards start for every year over 35; prize presented by Messrs. Jack A. Young and Company.

N. McDonald ... 1

J. Harvie ... 2

OBSTACLE RACE (confined); prize presented by the Vacuum Oil Company.

A. McKirdy ... 1

J. H. R. Hance ... 2

D. Currie ... 3

ONE MILE BICYCLE HANDICAP (confined); first prize presented by China Sugar Refinery staff, second by Mr. Chan A Tong.

R. A. Ferguson, 350 yds. start ... 1

T. Shand, 350 yds. start ... 2

HURDLE RACE (confined); prize presented by London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co.

W. Armstrong, scratch ... 1

F. W. White, 12 yds. start ... 2

J. Dickie, 12 yds. start ... 3

SACK RACE (confined); prize presented by Mr. Tai Woo Loong.

W. Armstrong ... 1

D. Currie ... 2

J. H. R. Hance ... 3

LONG JUMP (confined); prize presented by Mr. Tse Chin.

W. Armstrong (13 feet 8 inches) ... 1

J. H. R. Hance (13 feet 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches) ... 2

TWO MILE BICYCLE RACE (handicap); open to all comers; first prize presented by Kowloon Dock staff, 2nd prize by the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation.

R. Henderson, 300 yds. start ... 1

J. Glyn, 500 yds. start ... 2

CONSOLATION RACE; prize presented by Dr. Rennie.

R. Lapsley ... 1

C. G. Crane ... 2

CRICKET.

UNDER 26 V. OVER 26.

This match was played on Saturday and resulted in a victory for the Over 26 by ten wickets. The following are the scores and analysis:

UNDER 26.

H. Strong, c coolie, b Smith	1
H. B. Bedwell, R.N., b Ellis	61
H. Hancock, c Ward, b Langhorne	24
Lieut. Powlett, R.N., l.b.w., b Smith	18
K. G. Campbell, R.A., b Smith	32
A. R. Lowe, c Wilkinson, b Langhorne	32
W. A. L. Lethbridge, K.O.R., b Smith	0
R. F. White, R.N., St Egerton	23
Wilson, R.N., not out	3
R. W. Castle, R.A., c Langhorne, b Ellis	0
Gascoigne, R.N., b Ellis	7
Extras	7
Total	208

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs. Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.

G. R. Vallings	9	3	73	—	—
Sercombe	Smith	17	4	65	—
Capt. Langhorne	16	6	28	—	2
E. Ellis	13	2	31	—	—
H. C. Elliott	1	—	4	—	—

OVER 26.

G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., not out	87
T. S. Smith, c Lethbridge, b Bedwell	32
A. G. Ward, not out	85
E. Ellis, R.A.	—
Capt. Langhorne, R.A.	—
Rev. G. R. Vallings	—
J. Barton, R.N.	—
I. t. Egerton, R.N.	did not bat
H. Elliot, R.N.	—
J. M. Atkinson	—
Wilkinson, R.A.	—
Extras	18
Total	217

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs. Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.

A. R. Lowe	8	1	48	—	—
R. F. White	8	1	21	—	—
H. B. Bedwell	9	1	61	—	1
H. Hancock	6	1	15	—	—
W. A. Lethbridge	4	1	17	—	—
H. Strong	5	—	17	—	—
Lieut. Powlett	6	1	25	—	—

CLUB SCRATCH TEAM V. NAVY.

A match between a scratch Club XI and a Naval team was played yesterday and ended in a draw in favour of the Navy. The following are the scores and analysis:

NAVY.

H. Strong, R.M.L.I., b Campbell	2
H. B. Bedwell, b Langhorne	23
E. Ellis, c Hancock, b Langhorne	26
J. Barton, c Isacke, b Campbell	69
R. F. White, c Colville, b Campbell	86
H. M. C. Elliott, b Campbell	17
F. G. Egerton, c Colville, b Langhorne	21
F. G. Peile, b Hancock	20
F. O'B. Wilson, not out	17
W. D. Phipps, b Langhorne	3
A. S. Gush, c Colville, b Hancock	9
Extras	12
Total	310

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs. Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.

Hancock	17	5	50	—	2
Campbell	19	1	82	—	4
Colville	17	6	35	—	—
Langhorne	20	5	51	—	4
Powell	2	—	14	—	—
Ward	9	2	42	—	—
Dyson	5	—	19	—	—

CLUB ELEVEN.

A. G. Ward, b Bedwell	27

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seamen's uprights. Darby tried an oblique shot, but the ball fell short outside the line. For a time the Artillery pressed, but Brough relieved in good style. The ball several times was sent into touch in the Naval quarters, the outcome being a free kick against the seamen close to their uprights, but Pinner was on hand and relieved, the ball going well over the centre line. Play then developed into a give and take character, but Mullis played a clever game and worked the ball close to the Navy line and the leather finally went over. The Artillery then played a better combined game and had as much of the play as their opponents; but the superiority of the seamen's combination soon enabled Pinner to get possession, and he took the sphere very close to the Artillery goal, when Wilkins secured the ball and kicked it out of danger. The bluejackets, however, again attacked, and Miller compelled Croft to handle. A corner was awarded the Navy and Caine sent in a good centre, which again caused the goalkeeper to step out. A strong attack was kept up for several minutes, and Pinner once more showed to advantage by putting in a good centre which Caine availed himself of, heading the ball through. Just after half-time was called the score standing: *Victorious*, 4 goals; Artillery, nil.

On changing ends the Navy men immediately pressed, and swarmed round the Artillerymen's goal. Croft was called upon repeatedly, and came out of the hot attack with credit. From one of his reliefs Caine secured the ball and rushed along the touch-line and sent in a capital shot for goal. Ritchie tried to divert it, but the ball screwed off his leg and went between the sticks. Although the Naval players had secured 5 goals up to this stage of the game, they were not satisfied. Hallam got possession, and sent the ball to Pinner, who eluded all opposition and cleverly scored. After the ball had been kicked from the centre, the Artillerymen rallied and took the leather dangerously near their opponent's goal, experiencing "hard lines" in not scoring. Shortly after a corner fell to them, but the seamen rushed the ball to the other end from the kick-in, and Caine essayed to score. The ball, however, was returned to him, and he was in a good position to score, but unfortunately touched the ball with his hands, which enabled the opposition to relieve. The relief was only for a few minutes, the irresistible Caine again getting possession. His centre was accepted by Lismore, and that player scored the seventh goal, the ball going untouched between Croft's legs. A corner fell to the Artillery, but the Naval defence was too strong, and the leather travelled to the centre. Only ten minutes remained to the close of the game. Those minutes were occupied by the bluejackets in a strong and decided attack upon the Artillery goal. Caine again got possession and splendidly screwed the ball into the net, just under the bar, which Croft absolutely failed to reach. Another hot shot was sent in a minute later. Croft only half got hold of the sphere and fisted it but a short distance; Hallam rushed up, smartly secured the leather and sent it spinning past Croft and between the uprights. Shortly after time was called, the game ending as stated.

Although the soldiers seemed to play a hard game, they were outclassed at all points; the goal keeper was certainly not in his right place, and the captain of the team lacked judgment in keeping him there. Some shots he certainly could not stop; others he might easily have prevented from being effective. There was not much to choose between the players individually on the part of the Artillerymen; but in respect to the Naval players, Caine must be singled out as being brilliant. Pinner, in the forward line, did well, as also did Hallam and Lismore. Of the back division Butland showed to advantage. Bowles had nothing to do under the bar, and was unable to show his prowess.

The teams lined up as follow:

"VICTORIOUS."

ARTILLERY.

Goalkeepers.

Bowles

Croft

Backs.

Butland

Wilkins

Ritchie

Half-backs.	
Sorton	French
Jeffery	Castle
Lougnate	Spooner
Forwards.	
Caine	Lloyd
Miller	Darby
Hallam	Mullis
Pinner	Wilkinson
Lismore	Robinson

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE CUP FOR DECEMBER.

Only twenty-six entries were made for the above monthly competition, and the following are the scores returned:

Mr. W. J. Saunders	91	11	80
Mr. C. A. Tomes	93	8	85
Mr. E. F. Mackay	98	11	87
Mr. W. A. L. Lethbridge	96	8	88
Mr. A. J. McClure	98	8	90
Mr. E. A. Ram	100	9	91
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	100	8	92

THE HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

SHORT RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.

Twelve members took part in this competition on Saturday last at the 500 and 600 yards ranges. Sergeant-Major Wallace scored his first win for this Cup. Following are the best scores:

	500.	600.	H'cap.	Total.
C. I. M. Wallace *	48	47	--	95
C. P. O. Buck *	48	45	--	93
Corpl. Hills, R.E. *	48	41	3	92
Mr. A. Read	49	42	6	88
Mr. A. Watson	46	41	--	87
Mr. Diggins	34	37	14	85
P. O. Walton	42	40	--	82
P. O. Manning	45	36	--	81

* Winners of Spoons.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE POST OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—The General Post Office had no small change again! I handed two letters to my coolie this afternoon to be posted. Both were for local delivery and one of them was to be registered, so I gave him 20 cents to buy stamps with. I regret to say my coolie was obliged to come back to me for four copper cents, stating that the people at the P. O. could not give him change when he tendered a 10 cent piece for two 2 cent stamps! Isn't this very nice, Mr. Editor? It is highly desirable that there should be some "change" in the P. O., in more senses than one.—Yours faithfully,

K.

Hongkong, 3rd January, 1899.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS, 1898.

JANUARY

1st.—Taikoo Club Athletic Sports at Quarry Bay.—Mr. A. J. Ackroyd, ex Puisne Judge of Hongkong, knighted.—Gun Practice by Hongkong Volunteer Corps at Deep Water Bay.—The West Yorks Regiment left Hongkong.—Arrival of the Black Flag General Liu Yung-fu at Canton.
 3rd.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Powerful*.—Fire in Tokyo; 600 houses burnt.
 4th.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Edgar* with naval reliefs.
 8th.—The Spanish officers who brought the Philippine rebels to Hongkong on the 30th December returned to Manila.
 9th.—Messrs. Bennertz and Co.'s steamer *Kiangning* sunk in the Shanghai River.
 10th.—Court-martial on a boy for striking Captain King Hall, of H.M.S. *Edgar*.
 12th.—Execution of the three Burd Street murderers in Victoria Gaol.—Three courts-martial on H.M.S. *Powerful*.—H.E. the Governor, Sir William Robinson, distributed the prizes at the Diocesan School and Orphanage.

13th.—Organ Recital in St. John's Cathedral by Mr. A. G. Ward.—Singapore Chamber of Commerce resolved that a two-shilling gold dollar was desirable in the Straits.—Death of General Jones, United States Consul at Chinkiang.

14th.—H.E. the Governor, Sir William Robinson, distributed the prizes at Queen's College; speech by Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., Chief Justice.

16th.—Steamer *Pakshan* left Hongkong for Klondike service.—Hongkong Volunteer Corps Church parade service at the Union Church.

17th.—Lecture to Odd Volumes Society by Colonel Elsdale, R.E., on Aeronautics.

19th.—The *Powan* grounded in the Canton River; she was floated on the 20th.

20th.—The Justices of the Peace at a meeting held in the City Hall appointed a Committee to enquire into the sale of deleterious liquor in the colony.—Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) distributed the prizes at St. Joseph's College.—Lam Chan sentenced to death for committing a double murder in Shelley Street.

21st.—Presentation to Mr. E. A. Ram by the Hongkong Cricket Club in recognition of his services as hon. Secretary.

22nd.—Hongkong Volunteer Corps 64-pounder competition at Stonecutters Island.—Partial Eclipse of the sun in Hongkong.

25th.—His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., officially bade farewell to the Legislative Council.—The *Powan* collided with the *Kwanglee* at the China Merchants Company's Wharf; both ships badly damaged.—Chinese tungboat *Kongnam* was burnt and beached in Shanghai harbour.—Burns Concert at St. George's Hall.

26th.—Fire in No. 12 ward of the Lunatic Asylum.

28th.—Presentation of a farewell address to H. E. Sir William Robinson by the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society.—Lecture by Mr. W. Machell on the traditions and historical associations of the Hongkong Chinese.

29th.—His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, laid the foundation stone of the new reformatory school at Causeway Bay.

31st.—The Hongkong Civil Service presented His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, with an address at Government House.—Address by Captain G. C. Anderson to the Navy League on "Reasons why we should give our support to the Navy League."

FEBRUARY.

1st.—His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., left Hongkong for Enland in the German mail steamer *Preussen*, after being presented with addresses at the City Hall.—Major General Wilson Black, C.B., was sworn in as Acting Governor.

3rd.—Mr. Marcus W. Slade appointed a Lieut. in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.—Ex-Inspector Witchell confessed to having accepted bribes from gambling-house keepers.

4th.—Arrival in Hongkong of Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, Commander-in-chief of the China station.—Picnic for seamen at Little Hongkong.

6th.—Great Fire in Manila: damage \$889,000.

8th.—Boxing contest at the City Hall between W. S. Bailey and T. Northcott; result, a draw.

9th.—Lecture by Mr. J. J. Francois, Q.C., on Seely's "Expansion of England."

11th.—Fire on the *Esmeralda* at Manila; 3,000 bags of sugar destroyed.

12th.—Judgment given in the Gubbay and others v. Belilos case by the Chief Justice.—Captain White, passenger on the N.D.L. *Darmstadt*, jumped overboard on the voyage from Shanghai to Hongkong and was drowned.

15th.—Hongkong Race Meeting; First Day.

16th.—Hongkong Race Meeting; Second Day.

17th.—Hongkong Race Meeting; Third Day.

19th.—Hongkong Race Meeting; Off Day.—Production of "The Duchess of Bayswater & Co." and "A Pantomime Rehearsal" by Hongkong A.D.C.

20th.—Collision at Yokohama between the P. & O. steamer *Borneo* and the Japanese steamer *Wayo Maru*; both vessels damaged.

21st.—Lecture by Mr. W. Macmillan at the City Hall on "Some popular fallacies regarding the Navy."—Outbreak of Rinderpest at Sassoon's Villa.

22nd.—Collision at Kowloon between steam launches *Heron* and *Dakin*.

23rd.—Verdict given in Gorham v. Benjamin, Kelly, & Potts case.—Entertainment in the City Hall by *Powerful* dramatic company.

24th.—Arrival of Prince Henry of Prussia at Singapore.

25th.—Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Siam and Japan signed at Bangkok.—Fire at matshed barracks, Kowloon.

26th.—Lecture at the City Hall by Mr. W. V. Drummond on "The secret of the British Empire."

28th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; debate on New Government Offices.—Meeting of the Hongkong Jubilee Committee to consider the commemoration schemes.

MARCH.

1st.—Arrival at Macao of the Right Rev. Dr. Carvalho, the new Bishop of the diocese.

3rd.—Destructive fire at Pier Company's sheds, Kobe; estimated damage 1,000,000 yen.—Performance of the pantomime "Cinderella" by the Shanghai Amateur Dramatic Club.

5th.—Arrival at Hongkong of the 38th Co. Royal Artillery.

8th.—Arrival of Prince Henry of Prussia and his squadron, the *Deutschland* and *Gefion*, at Hongkong.—Report published of the recommencement of the Philippine Rebellion.—A sailor named Eaton burned to death in a grog shop at Kobe.—Arrival at Chungking of the first steamer, Mr. Archibald Little's *Leechuen*.

9th.—Dinner to Prince Henry of Prussia at Government House.—H. Cook, Secretary of New Club, found dead in his quarters; verdict, natural causes.—Meeting of Hongkong Jubilee Committee; Committee favourable to erecting hospital for women and children on high level, negativing the idea of purchasing Craigieburn.

11th.—Relief of the telegraph station at Bolinao after having been besieged several days by rebels.—Arrival at Hongkong of H.M.S. *Barfleur*, with torpedo boat destroyers *Whiting* and *Fame*—Mr. Lillie, proprietor and editor of *Siam Free Press*, expelled from Siam.

12th.—Fire at 2, Graham Street; one woman killed.

14th.—Garden Party at Government House in honour of Prince Henry of Prussia.

16th.—Foochow Spring Races; first day.

17th.—Meeting of the Sanitary Board; president submitted draft bye-laws for regulating sale of poisons.—St. Patrick's Ball at Shanghai.

19th.—Departure of Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, for England on leave.

21st.—Sir John Carrington distributes prizes and certificates in connection with Hongkong Centre London College of Music.—Inquest on Mr. A. Feltham, wardmaster at Government Civil Hospital, who was found dead in his quarters on March 18th; verdict, cause of death syncope.

23rd.—Lecture by Commodore Holland, A.D.C., to the Odd Volumes Society on The Sun.

24th.—Several districts in Hongkong declared infected with bubonic plague.

25th.—Sir John Carrington distributed prizes to scholars of Victoria English Schools.

26th.—Final tie Hongkong Football Challenge Cup; G. Company K.O.R. won.—Hongkong Volunteer Corps annual carbine competition.

29th.—Ball to Prince Henry by civil community of Hongkong.

31st.—Centurion left for North with Admiral Sir E. Seymour on board.—At a special meeting of the Sanitary Board it was decided to recommend Government to declare Macao a place infected with bubonic plague and to institute medical inspection of Chinese arriving from there.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Victorious*.

APRIL.

1st.—Dinner to Prince Henry at Government House; Sir Charles and Lady Mitchell among the guests.

2nd.—Annual sports of Victoria Recreation Club held.—Annual dinner of Hongkong

Football Club; presentation of Challenge Cup and badges.—An order received for British fleet to go North; vessels left at different times next week.—Customs Bank at Shanghai destroyed by fire.

3rd.—Rising at Cebu.

4th.—Tennis match between Cricket Club and Ladies' Recreation Club; score: L.R.C., 83 games; C.C. 34.—The Hon. H. E. Wodehouse bade farewell to European police.—Statement in the House of Commons by Mr. Balfour with reference to acquisition of Weihaiwei.

5th.—Presentation of address to Hon. H. E. Wodehouse by Chinese community.—Annual meeting of Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

6th.—Lecture by Sir John Carrington on "Volunteering," before members of Odd Volumes Society.—Presentation of an address and silver bowl to Hon. H. E. Wodehouse by Magistrate staff; Mrs. Wodehouse presented with a gold brooch.—Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of Straits Settlements, Lady Mitchell, Hon. H. E. and Mrs. Wodehouse, and Mr. C. C. Platt (Governor's Secretary) leave in the *Empress of China*.

7th.—Meeting of Sanitary Board; Colonial Veterinary Surgeon reports successful treatment of rinderpest by serum and ordered to give detailed report as to method of treatment.

9th.—Arrival at Manila of Lieut.-General Basilio Augustin y Davila, the new Governor-General of the Philippines.

10th.—New French mail steamer *Indus* arrived at Hongkong.

11th.—Inquest on coolie who died from injuries received in affray at East Point Refinery; verdict certified that the injuries were inflicted by foreman Gillies in self-defence.

13th.—Lecture at City Hall on "Vasco da Gama" by Mr. Francis, Q.C.—Prince Henry left in *Gefion* for Shanghai.

14th.—Inspection of Hongkong Volunteers; Acting Governor Black warmly complimented them on their appearance.—Important meeting of Sanitary Board as to plague.—*Deutschland* left.

16th.—Gymkhana season opened.—Meeting of Justices re deleterious liquor; decided to have evidence of Government Analyst before dissolving Commission.

17th.—Arrival of Prince Henry of Prussia at Shanghai.

18th.—Mr. Francis, Q.C., lectured on "Life of Nelson" in City Hall under auspices of Navy League.

19th.—Special meeting Sanitary Board to consider advisability of establishing hospital where Chinese plague patients could receive treatment according to Chinese methods.—Chinese student apothecary sentenced to 15 months for larceny.—Public tiffin to Prince Henry of Prussia at Shanghai.

20th.—Closing meeting of Odd Volumes Society.

21st.—Important meeting Sanitary Board, business having reference to plague.—Ultimatum presented to Spain by United States.—Inspection of Shanghai Volunteer Corps.

22nd.—French flag hoisted at Kwangchauwan.—St. George's Ball at Kobe.

23rd.—Hongkong School Sports at Happy Valley; over 1,000 entries.—King's Own celebrated St. George's Day by troping colours.

24th.—Part of American squadron leave for Mirs Bay.—Neutrality proclamation published at Hongkong.

25th.—Remainder of America squadron leave for Mirs Bay.

26th.—Mr. Williams, U. S. Consul, arrives in *Esmeralda* from Manila.

27th.—American squadron leaves Mirs Bay for Manila.—Departure of Mr. Von Loepel, German Consul, on transfer to Valparaiso.—Large seizure of forged bank notes at Singapore.

29th.—Death of Sister Frances (Miss Higgin) from plague.

30th.—Volunteer prize distribution by Lady Carrington.

MAY.

1st.—Naval battle at Cavite; the Spanish fleet destroyed by the Americans.

4th.—Death of Mr. L. S. Crawford, eldest son of Mr. D. R. Crawford, from plague.—*Immortalité* left for Manila.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Bonaventure*.

6th.—Death of Sister Gertrude (Miss Ireland) from plague.—Meeting of Sanitary Board; farewell to Mr. Ede.

7th.—McCulloch arrived from Manila bringing particulars of naval engagement.—The steamer *Amarapoora* stranded on the S. E. Promontory.

8th.—McCulloch returned to Manila.

9th.—*Victor Emmanuel* sold for \$46,000.—Murder in Caine Road; Mr. Jesus shot by Ozorio.—Riot at Shasi.

10th.—Launch of Siamese cruiser at Kowloon.

15th.—McCulloch arrived in Kowloon Bay from Manila.—Prince Henry of Prussia had audience of the Emperor of China.

17th.—McCulloch returned to Manila with Aguinaldo.—Grosser and Schultz, the bank note forgers, sentenced at Singapore to ten and eight years' penal servitude respectively. Suicide of a German named Fuchs at Shanghai.

20th.—Submission of Mat Salleh, the Borneo rebel.

21st.—Second Gymkhana of season.—Prisoner escapes from gaol; captured on Macao steamer just as it was about to start.

24th.—Queen's birthday celebrated by general holiday; Review of Troops at Happy Valley.—British flag hoisted at Weihaiwei.

25th.—Death of Mr. J. G. Lyon Webster from plague.

26th.—Canton steamer *Pasig* struck foundations of pier in harbour and sprung a leak.

28th.—Rifle Association meeting at Kowloon.

29th.—Death of Prince Kung at Peking.

31st.—Annual meeting Victoria Recreation Club; encouraging statements as to new site.—Special meeting Sanitary Board; decided to recommend Government to declare Amoy infected port.

JUNE.

2nd.—Ozorio committed for murder of Mr. Jesus.

3rd.—Wreck of Dutch steamer *Smit* near Quelpart.

5th.—Death of Captain Gridley, late of U.S.S. *Olympia*, at Kobe.

6th.—Presentation to Capt Loveband of silver salver for services as Secretary of Polo Club.

8th.—Riot at Ningpo.

9th.—Seizure of arms and ammunition on *Pasig* at Hongkong.—Loss of the Chinese cruiser *Fu-ching* with 126 lives off Port Arthur.

10th.—News received sanctioning rectification of the boundaries of Hongkong.

12th.—Man drowned at Waterfull Bay; fell off the steamer *Shun Lee*.

13th.—Annual meeting Hongkong Rifle Association; Sir John Carrington re-elected President.

14th.—Arrest of a Chinaman for murder of his wife last September.—Death of Mrs. Burdon, wife of Right Rev. Bishop Burden.

15th.—Seizure of arms in the Harbour.—Funeral of Mrs. Burdon.

17th.—Public meeting at Shanghai with reference to Settlement extension.—William Evans, chief gunnery instructor on H.M.S. *Grafton*, shot himself at Nagasaki; verdict of temporary insanity returned.

19th.—Yuensang arrived from Manila with British subjects and 30 nuns.

20th.—Zafiro brought word from Manila of attempt to poison Aguinaldo.

21st.—U.S.S. *Zafiro* ordered out of Chinese waters.

22nd.—Arrival at Shanghai of Mr. Conger, the new U.S. Minister to the United States.

24th.—Ozorio condemned to death for the murder of Mr. Jesus.

25th.—Loss of the Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru* by striking a rock off Same Point, Hachinohe.

27th.—Despatches from Manila report Spaniards preparing for desperate resistance.

30th.—Meeting of Sanitary Board; report on Insanity Properties Commission's report.

—Death of Mr. Hugh McCallum.—P. & O. steamer *Ganges* destroyed by fire at Bombay.

—Arrival at Cavite of first instalment of American troops for Manila.

JULY.

2nd.—Gymkhana at Happy Valley.

4th.—Weeks Island taken possession of by the United States.

5th.—Three tea-firing godowns at Kobe belonging to Messrs. T. W. Hellyer & Co. destroyed by fire.

7th.—Capture of Island of Rio Grande, Subig Bay, by Insurgents.
 11th.—Execution of Ozorio.
 12th.—Abortive strike of laundrymen against sanitary regulations.—Several towns in Kwangsi reported captured by rebels.
 13th.—Mr. H. Tennant, editor *Japan Gazette*, shot himself; verdict, temporary insanity.
 17th.—Serious rioting on French Concession at Shanghai; 15 Chinese killed and 29 wounded.
 19th.—Arrival at Manila of the second expedition of American troops.
 20th.—Wan Hung sentenced to death for wife murder.—Death of Capt. Matthews, R.A., of heat apoplexy.
 21st.—Captain Toulmin, of the *Dosing*, charged at Canton with killing his comrade, committed for trial.—Collision at Shanghai between the French cruiser *Jean Bart* and the sailing vessel *Helen Brewer*.
 24th.—Victory of Imperial troops over Kwangsi rebels.
 25th.—Meeting of Legislative Council; Bill authorising increased issue of bank notes by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank passed through all its stages; resolution reserving Causeway Bay Recreation Ground passed.
 28th.—James Robertson, chief engineer of steamer *Asphodel* drowned at Quarry Bay.
 29th.—Meeting of ratepayers of French Concession at Shanghai decided to establish wharfage dues.—Miss M. E. Simons, a missionary lady, killed at Yokohama in a collision between a steam-launch and a junk.
 31st.—Brush between Americans and Spaniards at Malate.—Arrival of third American expedition at Manila.

AUGUST.

2nd.—Death of Mr. Rawson Walker, British Consul at Manila.—Arrival of Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart commissioned to report on the Kowloon boundary extension.
 3rd.—Meeting of Legislative Council.
 4th.—Gale at Hongkong.
 6th.—Bismarck Memorial Service at German Chapel.—Gale and heavy rainfall in Formosa; great destruction of property and loss of life.
 8th.—Chinese procession at Macao.
 10th.—Opening of the Japanese Consulate at Foochow.
 11th.—Floods in Shantung caused by breaches in the banks of the Yellow River.
 13th.—Americans took Manila.
 14th.—Mgr. V. Garnier Roman Catholic Bishop, died at Shanghai.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Hermione*.
 15th.—Governor-General Augustin and wife and family arrived in Hongkong from Manila in German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta*.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; resolution passed declaring it desirable that the piece of ground at Kowloon known as Sung Wong Toi should be reserved for the benefit of the public in perpetuity.
 17th.—Gale at Hongkong.
 18th.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Blenheim*.
 19th.—Rising in Hainan; missionaries at Nodoa compelled to leave for Hoihow.
 20th.—Opposition of natives at Kam Tin Hu to Kowloon Survey Commission.
 22nd.—The Margaret Williamson Hospital at Shanghai partially destroyed by fire.
 30th.—Typhoon in Formosa Channel, American barque *Comet* wrecked, Japanese steamer *Riusei Maru* stranded near Tamsui lighthouse, and many native craft lost.
 31st.—Departure of Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart for England to report to the home Government on the Kowloon extension.

SEPTEMBER.

1st.—Generals Merritt and Greene arrived at Hongkong from Manila.—P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* arrived with crew of German steamer *Trinidad*, which she discovered disabled off Turnabout; *Trinidad* sank.—Opening of the Shanghai-Woosung Railway.—The Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce pass resolutions with reference to the Chinese Customs.
 2nd.—General Greene leaves for San Francisco in *China*.—Kiaochau declared a free port.
 3rd.—Gymkhana at Happy Valley.—General Merritt leaves for Europe in *Chusun*.—Fire in the godowns of Messrs. Speidel & Co. at Saigon; damage \$100,000.
 6th.—V. R. C. Aquatic Sports.—Typhoon in Japan.

7th.—V. R. C. Aquatic Sports.—Dismissal of Li Hung-chang.
 8th.—V. R. C. Aquatic Sports.
 10th.—Gymkhana.
 12th.—Meeting of Legislative Council.—Suicide of the Rev. Mr. Freeman, American Naval chaplain, at Nagasaki, by drowning, while temporarily insane.
 13th.—Attack on mission property at Hochow, near Chungking.
 14th.—Aguinaldo and followers vacate suburbs of Manila in compliance with ultimatum of General Otis.
 17th.—Closing of Nurses' Memorial Fund; \$2,536 raised.—China Merchants' Godown at Kinleeneen, Shanghai, burned down.
 19th.—First stone of new British Consulate at Hoihow laid.
 20th.—Presentation to Deputy-Supt. Howe by European members of the Police Force.
 21st.—The Empress-Dowager of China assumes the Regency; the Emperor placed in confinement; collapse of the reform party.—The Imperial Bank of China commenced its note issue at Shanghai.
 23rd.—Eight rebel leaders beheaded at Wuchow.
 26th.—Prisoner escapes from Victoria Gaol; uncaptured.—Annual meeting of Hongkong St. Andrew's Society held.
 27th.—Cricket match, Hongkong v. Shanghai, commenced at Shanghai.
 28th.—Continuation of Interport cricket match at Shanghai.—Six reform leaders executed at Peking.
 29th.—Kang Yu-wei arrives in Hongkong from Shanghai.—Kam Tin Hu villagers wait upon Acting Colonial Secretary and apologise for opposing British Commission on August 20th.—Conclusion of interport cricket match at Shanghai; Hongkong won by 28 runs.—Proclamation of the "Philippine Independent Republic" at Malolos.
 30th.—Lord Charles Beresford arrives in Hongkong; receives deputations from the Navy League, China Association, and Chamber of Commerce.—Attacks on foreigners at Peking.

OCTOBER.

1st.—Meeting of Legislative Council.—Lord Charles Beresford leaves for Shanghai.—Annual meeting of Hongkong Jockey Club.—Commodore Holland meets with an accident, breaking his kneecap.—Great fire at Hankow; three miles of streets and alleyways burnt, leaving homeless over ten thousand families.
 3rd.—First land sale at Kiaochau.—Chungking threatened by the rebel Yu Man-tsze.
 4th.—Admiral Montojo arrives at Hongkong from Manila.—Collision on West River between steamers *Kongchau* and *Lingchau*, the latter sank, seven persons drowned.
 5th.—Death of Mrs. Scott at Shanghai from hydrophobia, being the third death caused by bites from one dog.
 7th.—Seventy cossacks, twenty-five British marines, and thirty Germans leave Tientsin by special train for Peking as guards for the Legations.
 8th.—Admiral Montojo and family leave Hongkong for Europe in the *Laos*.
 10th.—Meeting of Legislative Council. Appropriation Bill passed.—Three conspirators hanged at Seoul for attempting to assassinate the King.
 13th.—Arrival at Shanghai of the "Mission d'études du chemin de fer," consisting of ten Belgians, five Frenchmen, and one Italian, sent out by the Syndicate which has secured the concession of the Peking and Hankow railway.
 15th.—Bill passed by Legislative Council of Straits Settlements prohibiting importation of Japanese yen.
 21st.—Trial trip of the French steamer *Hating*.
 22nd.—Volunteers go into Camp.
 23rd.—Outrage on foreign engineers at Likouchau by Chinese soldiers.
 24th.—Judgment given by the Shanghai Tao-tai in the case of the Bank of China and its Chinese shareholders.
 25th.—Incipient riot at Canton, opposite Shameen.—Aguinaldo's forces withdraw from the outskirts of Manila in compliance with the directions of the U.S. Commander.—Collision near Tadotsu between the steamer *Kinsiu Maru* and *Miyagawa Maru*; the latter sank with loss of sixty lives.

NOVEMBER.

3rd.—Annual Licensing Sessions.—Arrival of Lord Charles Beresford at Newchwang.
 4th.—Murder of Rev. W. S. Fleming by Chinese at Kweiyang, Kweichow.
 5th.—Presentation by Dr. Atkinson of the prizes won in the six-a-side football competition.—Concert at the City Hall in aid of the Hongkong Benevolent Society.
 8th.—Hongkong shot in the Interport Rifle match and won with a score of 934.
 9th.—Boxing tournament at City Hall.
 12th.—Enthronement of Bishop of Victoria.
 15th.—Wreck of the steamer *Activ* at Tamsui.
 16th.—The P. & O. steamer *Rosetta* ran ashore while entering Nagasaki and sustained serious damage.
 17th.—Performance by the Amateur Dramatic Society.
 19th.—Lord Charles Beresford attends the annual dinner of the China Association at Shanghai.—Visit of the Emperor of Japan to Kobe; address presented by foreign community.
 21st.—Unveiling of *Iltis* monument at Shanghai by Prince Henry of Prussia.
 22nd.—Legislative Council Meeting; Major-General Black delivers his farewell speech.—Performance by the Officers' Amateur Dramatic Club of H.M.S. *Powerful*.
 24th.—Thanksgiving dinner given by Mr. O. F. Williams, United States Consul at Manila.—Inaugural dinner of Kobe Branch of the China Association.
 25th.—Sir Henry Blake arrived in Hongkong.
 26th.—Hall and Holtz store at Shanghai burnt out.
 28th.—Murder of Colonel Porfirio Zeferino de Souza by a soldier of the Macao Garrison.
 30th.—St. Andrew's Ball.

DECEMBER.

1st.—Destructive fire at Wuchow.
 4th.—Fire at the Naval coalsheds, Kowloon.
 5th.—Telegram received from Chungking stating that hopes of saving Father Fleury, held in captivity by rebel Yu Man-tsze, have been abandoned.
 8th.—British Gunboat *Woodcock* launched at Shanghai.—Sir Henry Blake held a levée at Government House.
 13th.—Reception of the wives of the Foreign Ministers by the Empress Dowager and Emperor.—Japanese steamer *Yayeyama* collided with P. & O. steamer *Brindisi* while latter was at anchor at Bakan, near Moji; *Yayeyama* sank.—Presentation to Mr. Norton Kyshe, Registrar of the Supreme Court, on his departure on leave.—Judgment delivered in the U. S. Consular Court at Canton convicting Richard Toulmin, late Captain of steamer *Dosing*, of murdering the comrade of that vessel; sentence, penal servitude for life.
 14th.—Sham fight at Shanghai between the crew of H.M.S. *Phoenix* and the Shanghai Volunteers.
 16th.—Arrival at Hongkong of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia.—Charles Emil Leopold convicted at Yokohama of frauds amounting to over \$140,000; sentenced to two years' hard labour.
 19th.—Thomas Mercer accidentally killed by electricity at the Hongkong Electric Light Works.
 20th.—Victoria Regatta; first day.
 21st.—Victoria Regatta; second day.—New quarters of Soldiers and Sailors Institute opened.—Emergency meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China to welcome Right Wor. Brother Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., District Grand Master of Jamaica.
 22nd.—Arrival of H. M. S. *Edgar* with Naval reliefs.
 23rd.—Final tie in Polo tournament for Hon. F. H. May's cup; won by Royal Artillery.
 24th.—Departure of Major-General Black from Hongkong.—Presentation of Regatta prizes at V.R.C. by Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.
 25th.—Arrival of General Gascoigne at Hongkong.
 26th.—Performance of "H.M.S. *Missfire*" at Theatre Royal by the Amateur Dramatic Club of H. M. S. *Powerful*.

27th.—Concert and Christmas Tree at Government Civil Hospital.
 28th.—Annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League.
 29th.—Steamer *Glenavon* struck a rock off Linting and foundered.

THE BONIN MISSION.

[TRANSLATED FOR THE "DAILY PRESS."]

We have received news of the Bonin Mission. After a favourable voyage up the Yangtze to Chungking, where it was received with all the honours by the Chinese authorities and the Foreign Consuls, the Mission divided itself, the larger party with all the baggage, under Captain de Vaulserre, second of the Mission, continuing the ascent of the river in junks as far as Suifu, while Resident Bonin with a few men proceeded by land to Kiating, following the route by which Father Fleury was carried off a few days later. A petty theft having been committed, the delinquent was arrested and handed over to the authorities by M. Bonin, and no other disagreeable incident happened on the route. From Kiating the Resident proceeded to Mount Omi, the famous shrine of the Chinese and Tibetan Buddhists, where the "Shadow of God" is seen. Descending to Suifu the second part of the Mission was found, having arrived all well. At his own request M. de Vaulserre was commissioned to continue the exploration of the Yangtze as far as Tali, the ascent of the river not having hitherto been attempted beyond Suifu. M. Bonin accompanied him for several days, then, after rather a long stay at Suifu, where he was detained by fever aggravated by the exceptional heat of the summer, he set out for Yunnan. Leaving at Tongchuan the habitual route of the caravans he struck north-west for the unexplored Leangshan range of mountains, which serves as a refuge for the aboriginal tribes incorrectly termed Lolos and by the Chinese Mantse or I-jen (savages). He was fortunate in making the passage without trouble until he was within two days' journey of the Kieuchang Valley, when he was attacked at the village of Tumukn, not by the Mantse, but by the Chinese, at the instigation of two military mandarins and with the assistance of their soldiers. He had sent on in advance the greater part of his escort and followers, but, thanks to the coolness of a few Annamites who remained with him, he was able to repel the attack and wait, barricaded in a house of the village for two days and two nights, the arrival of the mandarins from Kienchangfu. These, hastily warned, came up with a hundred rifles, apparently with the object of protecting M. Bonin, but, as Chinese prudence never forgets itself, they halted in a fortified town some three leagues from the spot to await events. M. Bonin was, however, able to go to them, again narrowly escaping attack at the village gate, and on arriving at the town of Kienchangfu he made his complaint to the mandarins in due form. These, secretly stirring up the population, who twice made an attempt on the foreigners' lives, tried by all means in their power to induce him to abandon the complaint, but this he refused with the utmost energy. After an excited stay of ten days he again set out for the North, passing through another unexplored region inhabited by independent aboriginal tribes who offer many points of interest. He arrived then at the gate of Thibet, Tatsienlu, whence he had counted on being able to communicate by telegraph with the French Consul at Chungking, but he found that the line had been cut by the Szechuan rebels and that the province was in a state of anarchy, of which the attack at Tumanku and the incidents at Kienchangfu had been only one of the manifestations.

During this time Captain de Vaulserre had arrived at Tali, having successfully led his exploring party through a region beset with difficulties. He again set out to rejoin the head of the mission. It is probable that when they meet the two explorers will return from the Thibet frontier to Shanghai to record the results of their journey, if the rebellion allows them to traverse the disturbed region which still separates them from Chungking and the Yangtze.

—*L'Echo de Chine.*

GERMAN SCHOOL AT KIAOCHAU.

A German school has been established at Tsintau, Kiaochau, since the 2nd May last, of which some particulars are published in a recent number of the *Asiatische Deutschland Warte*. The school was established by the Government with the object of teaching the Chinese German, more particularly for the purpose of procuring a supply of interpreters, who will serve mostly with the army. At the head of the school is the Missionary Kunze, who was stationed for ten years near Canton, whence he was transferred to Tsintau. At the present time the school has thirty-five pupils, of ages ranging from twelve to twenty-seven, thirteen of whom are intended for the interpreting service. Two or three are to be attached to each military division, their pay being \$5 a month. Those who display special aptitude are to be rewarded with a bonus of a dollar a quarter and in extraordinary cases may have their pay raised two or three dollars. The scholars are divided into two classes, of which the first attends from eight to nine in the morning and the second from nine to ten. An examination takes place every quarter presided over by the Civil Commissioner, Dr. Schraumeir, Captain Wilkin, and the Treasurer. At the second examination, which took place on the 25th October, Prince Henry was present with Baron v. Spee. His Royal Highness expressed his great satisfaction with the results and himself questioned several young Chinese, who replied without embarrassment in good German. The writing especially commanded the approbation of the Prince, who jokingly remarked that in that respect he acknowledged himself beaten by the Chinese.

HONGKONG.

There were 1,562 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 129 were Europeans.

The only case of communicable disease reported as occurring in the colony last week was one of enteric fever on the steamer *Activ*.

At the Magistracy on 4th January four chair coolies employed by Mr. E. S. Kelley, of Richmond Road, were each fined \$10 for leaving his service without reasonable notice.

Amongst the New Year honours Major-General Gascoigne has been made a C.M.G. This fact was mentioned by Mr. Francis, Q.C., in proposing the toast of the Services at the Navy League dinner on Tuesday night.

At the regular meeting of Eothen Mark Lodge, No. 264, E.C., held on 31st December, Bro. D. Macdonald was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin was re-elected Treasurer.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humpreys and Son, general managers of Queen Mines, Limited, that they have received a telegram from the mines as follows:—"Have struck reef at a depth of 400 feet, West cross cut, width of reef is 3 feet showing gold, not sufficient development yet to estimate the value."

Mr. Clifford, the Resident of Pahang, in his report for November, says:—"The Manager at Punjom is adopting an energetic policy, and is making vigorous attempts to ascertain the value of the Company's property. He proposes to construct a cart road from the Jelai River at Batu Buxong to the Bukit Sarang mines, and has entered into negotiations with Government upon the subject.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humpreys and Son, general managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received a telegram from the Mines as follows:—"A crushing of 590 tons has yielded 23 ozs. gold, water plentiful." The general managers further inform us that as the last clean up was on the 3rd inst and the Xmas holidays have intervened it is calculated the mill ran 22 days.

Prince Henry gave a ball on board his flagship on the 29th December the invitations being issued in the name of "Der Chef der II. Division des Kreuzergeschwaders an Bord S. M. S. *Deutschland*" The deck had been covered in with flags and the whole ship was beautifully decorated with flowers, foliage, and the electric light. There was a large number of guests, both German and English, who were received on their arrival by the Prince and Princess on the quarter-deck.

H.M.S. *Powerful* left Hongkong on 2nd Jan. for Amoy, the date of her departure having been postponed from the previous day. The blue-jackets of this big cruiser performed a good coaling feat on Friday, taking in 800 tons of coal in eight hours, averaging 100 tons per hour.

The remaining six subscription griffins having arrived by the *Wingsang*, the same were drawn for at Kennedy's Town depot on Thursday with the following result:—28, Mr. R. M. Gray; 29, Mr. A. P. McEwen; 30, Mr. P. de C. Morris; 31, the Hon. Captain Lambton; 32, Mr. R. H. Bruce, Amoy; 33, Mr. H. N. Mody.

During a smoking concert at the Warrant Officers' Club on Monday evening Lord Charles Beresford made his appearance, the whole company rising on his entrance and singing "For he's a jolly good fellow." His Lordship, in acknowledging some complimentary remarks made by Mr. E. Banyard, described the warrant officers as the back-bone of the Navy.

The revised table of postage rates is published in the *Gazette*. In a foot-note attention is specially called to the changes in the rates for correspondence to the United Kingdom and certain British colonies and also to the increase in the fees for return receipts and for registration of local letters and those addressed to Macao and China. The rate of postage to the United Kingdom and the colonies is 4 cents, which sum is taken as the local equivalent of 1d. The rate for registration is now 10 cents in all cases, even on correspondence for local delivery.

The staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company celebrated New Year's Eve by holding a dance at Kowloon, some 300 persons being present. The joiners' shop at the Docks had been cleared out and made into an admirable ball room. The floor had been carefully prepared and the room decorated with exceptional taste. At each end was an illuminated device—at the far end "A guid new year to aye an a," and over the door "For auld lang syne." The band of the Hongkong Regiment supplied the music. Supper was provided in an adjoining room, where on the hour of 12 being struck neighbour greeted neighbour and amidst cheers the illuminated date "1898" gave place to "1899." The affair was on all hands voted to have been a great success.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Chungking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes, under date the 12th December:—"Seven brigands, among them two chiefs, were captured at Yangchuan and executed a few days ago. The unofficial Chinese are in great fear that Yu Man-tze will defeat the Imperial troops, in which case matters will be decidedly serious." Another Chungking dispatch reports that a confidential secretary of H.E. Wang Chih-chun, the new Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, has been captured and detained by Yu Man-tze as a hostage. It appears that the secretary boasted to the Treasurer that he would be able to persuade the rebel Yu to lay down his arms "after half an hour's talk," and that although strenuously entreated by his employer not to be too rash, he left the Treasurer's temporary *yamen* in Chungking one night on horseback, alone, for Yu's camp. The secretary arrived there, but was thrown into prison without the honour of the coveted interview.

A shooting fracas took place on board of the China Merchants' steamer *Feiching* at Shanghai on Christmas evening. It appears the second engineer, Mr. C. Turney, had been drinking and whilst under the influence of liquor became exceedingly quarrelsome. On going to dinner words ensued between him and a lad called Eveleigh, a dock apprentice who was acting as third engineer. The second refused to sit at the table and went to his room for his revolver. He then returned to the saloon and fired two shots at Eveleigh, one of which hit the lad on the body but was fortunately deflected by a button. The second officer, Mr. A. N. Barrier, and Mr. L. Foncoco, a guest and friend of Eveleigh, attempted to take away the weapon and in doing so were wounded, the former receiving a severe scalp wound on the back of the head and the latter a bullet in the left thigh. Both were conveyed to

the General Hospital for treatment and are now progressing favourably. An amusing incident in connection with the shooting took place at the General Hospital. The lad Eveleigh, believing he was shot and having a flesh bruise, attended for treatment, which was readily given. A bandage was applied and as the spot was a dangerous one, five doctors were summoned to assist at the operation of probing, etc. Ether was given and a search made for the non-existing puncture, when to the astonishment of the doctors the bullet was found embedded in the patient's clothing.—*N. C. Daily News.*

CANTON NOTES.

It is said that a European has petitioned the Viceroy to be allowed to buy the site in Lun Hing Street, where recently stood about ten houses which were burnt on the 29th December last by the great fire. The Government has taken the question into consideration.

The charitable institutions have received a telegram from Li Hung-chang asking them to raise subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the Yellow River flood in Shantung. A great part of the province has been inundated and thousands upon thousands of people have been rendered homeless. Five thousand dollars have been sent from the Tung Wa Hospital and over ten thousand dollars from the various charitable institutions in Canton to the suffering districts as a first contribution.

His Excellency Sam Chan-hun, late provincial Treasurer of Canton, left on the 1st instant for Peking. His departure is regarded with great regret by all the Cantonese. Some people performed an old ceremony of esteem and respect, namely piling up a number of bags of rice in front of His Excellency's yamen, the meaning of which is that the people earnestly solicit His Excellency not to go away. When His Excellency marched to the wharf for embarkation, many kaifong people with joss-sticks in their hands knelt down and kowtowed to him. From this it can be easily seen how submissive the Chinese are and how easily they can be governed if the rulers are just and not of a squeezing spirit. H. E. Sam, who was nothing but just during his short administration of only three months, has been greatly respected and loved.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	13,478,766	13,868,361
Foochow	13,200,549	12,622,570
Amoy	684,252	675,084
Canton	4,443,760	5,455,162
	31,807,327	32,601,197

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	13,171,662	18,823,511
Amoy	10,442,812	12,467,773
Foochow	7,297,412	7,126,264
	30,911,886	38,417,498

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,691,075	19,462,293

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	24,282,455	25,178,843
Kobe	12,166,816	24,475,448
	36,449,271	49,654,291

SILK.

CANTON, 23rd December.—Tsatees.—No settlements for Europe are reported. Re-reels.—Nothing obtainable, supplies are almost exhausted and dealers are unwilling to sell for forward delivery. Fliters.—Have been in good demand during the month, but the transactions were limited owing to the firmness of the holders and the

advance in exchange. Finest and fine sizes are the most in demand but especially the 9/11 are very scarce and most of the good chows are engaged for the next four to eight weeks. From prices paid we quote: \$785 for Yee Wo Loong and Cheong Kee 9/11, \$775 for Kwong King Loong 9/11, \$770 for Kwong Wo Tai 11/13, and King Wo 11/13, \$765/760 for Yu King Cheong 9/11, Hip Sam Chow 10/12, \$755 for Kwong Ho and Shun Kee 11/13, \$730/715 for good No. 2 13/15, \$665/640 for Best No. 3 13/15, Hing Lun and Yee Wo Lun, \$655 for Yee Wo Chong 18/22. Short-reels—Have been in good enquiry for America and prices advanced about \$25 per picul for II B chows. From prices paid we quote: \$770 for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16, \$720 for Kwong Lun Cheong 14/16, \$710-700 for Min Tai Cheong, Kwong Lun On, and Koun King 14/16, \$695 for Kwong Wo Shang and Hip Sing Hung 14/16. Waste.—Unchanged.

SHANGHAI, 30th December.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons' Circular).—The Home markets are firm, and Gold Kilings have risen to 10/3 in London and to Fcs. 29.23 in Lyons. Raw Silk.—A fair business has been done since our last was written and fuel rates show another advance. Exchange is slightly lower than last week. Settlements of Tsatees and Taysnams amount to 600/700 bales. In Yellow Silk business has been active and quite 800 bales have changed hands; the demand for Wenchew still continues and contracts have been made for two months delivery. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, December 23rd to 29th, are: 885 bales White, 248 bales Yellow, and 232 bales Wild Silk. Re-Reels And Filatures.—Settlements of Hand Filatures for America and Lyons amount to 400 bales. About 20 bales Steam Filatures Market Chows have been taken. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 2,129 bales to France, 1,156 bales to America and 68 bales to London. Wild Silk.—The market for Raws is weak and holders would accept considerable reduction to clear. Waste Silk.—A small business doing. The following transactions have been reported:—

	at Tls.
50 Nanking Buttons and 2	55½
50 Houan Waste	60
300 Long Shantung B (whole bales)	19½
50 White fine Gum 1 and 2	76
30 Do	74

(for local use.)
50 White Coarse Gum 70 p. c. No I, 30 p. c. No II 61½
Shanghai Pounges.—These have been coming down more freely lately, and the quality shows an improvement.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	43,164	36,943
Canton	20,721	16,748
Yokohama.....	13,806	13,197
	76,791	66,888

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales	bales.
Shanghai	4,797	7,692
Canton.....	7,040	8,235
Yokohama	15,792	21,174
	27,629	37,101

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—The market is slightly weaker. Quotations for Formosa are \$50.50 to \$51.00. Sales, 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—The market has recovered under the influence of a brisk demand and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.75 to \$7.80 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 7.25 to 7.30 " "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.05 to 5.10 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.90 to 4.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.60 to 7.65 "
do. " 1, White... 7.05 to 7.10 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.80 to 4.85 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.65 to 4.70 "
Foucio Sugar Candy... 10.05 to 11.00 "
Suckoon... 9.93 to 10.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per British barque *Drumeltan*, sailed on the 22nd December from Hongkong for New York:—85 packages canes, 44 cases blackwoodware, 125 packages joss sticks, 200 cases palm

leaf fans, 492 packages rattanware, 2,404 rolls matting, 5,229 packages firecrackers, and 18,274 packages tea.

Per steamer *Hector*, sailed on the 28th December. For London:—90 cases essential oil, 14 cases effects, 208 cases cigars, 3 cases feathers, 3 cases cowtail hair, 2 cases curios, 100 cases plum leaf fans, 27 cases Chinaware, 5 cases beancake, 4 cases lychees, 28 cases blackwoodware, 50 cases and 25 casks ginger, 150 bales waste silk, 205 rolls matting, 25 packages shells, and 3 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—305 bales waste silk. For London and/or Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—200 bales feathers. For Manchester:—2 cases curios and 275 bales waste silk. For Boston:—4 cases cigars. For New York:—80 cases and 10 bales tobacco. For Liverpool:—23 cases cigars and 100 bales mats.

Per P. & O. steamer *Sumatra*, sailed on the 30th December. For Buenos Aires:—550 packages tea. For London:—15 cases cigars from Manila, 43 cases bristles, 23 cases blackwoodware, 71 cases Chinaware, 20 cases cigars, 3 cases effects, 15 cases pearl shells, 1 case curios, 1,500 cases preserves, 250 bales split bamboo, 120 bales feathers, 10 bales canes, 3 packages sundries, 174 packages tea, and 1,896 boxes tea.

Per steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on the 31st December. For Bombay:—10 bales raw silk. For France:—546 bales raw silk, 6 cases silk piece goods, 20 cases essential oil, 100 cases staranised, 25 packages tea, 12 packages hair, 25 packages matting, and 5 packages sundries. For London:—16 bales raw silk and 3 cases silk piece goods.

Per Amer. ship *Reuce*, sailed on the 4th January. From Hongkong for New York:—8 bales skin rugs, 50 bales canes, 78 cases blackwoodware, 62 packages ladyorackers, 100 casks soy, 150 cases joss sticks, 154 bales strawbraid, 102 packages caneware, 137 packages rattan chairs, 175 bales sheep's wool, 225 bags hemp seed, 225 packages preserves, 398 boxes cassia, 400 packages merchandise, 700 bales broken cassia, 1,234 bales rattan core, 2,718 packages cannoncrackers, 3,175 cases palm leaf fans, 5,464 packages firecrackers, and 11,246 rolls matting.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—Bengal.—There has been a fair demand for this drug and the price for Benares has improved since our last, the market closing steady at the following figures:—New Patna \$800 and New Benares \$795.

Malwa.—The market has been rather dull and there has been no business to report. New cargo has improved in prices, latest quotations being as follows:—

New	Old	Old
\$730 with all'nce of 0 to 2½ catty.	"	"
Old (2/3 yrs.) \$740	"	0 to 1
" (4 ") \$760	"	0 to 1
" (5/6 ") \$780	"	0 to 1

Persian.—The market has continued rather quiet with no alterations in prices. Closing quotations are \$550 to \$650 for Oily and \$640 to \$710 for paper-tied.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—New Patna..... 1,418 chests
New Benares..... 141
Malwa..... 506
Persian..... 607

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	

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Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 15.00 to 16.75 picul.
and Dacca.....
Shanghai and Japanese,.. 21.00 to 21.50 ..
Tungchow and Ningpo... 21.00 to 21.50 ..
Madras (Best)..... to
Sales: 900 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and
Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—A further fall in price has occurred under the influence of large arrivals. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.55 to \$2.60
" Round, good quality.....	2.65 to 2.70
" Long	2.74 to 2.88
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.70 to 2.75
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	2.95 to 3.00
" White.....	3.75 to 3.80
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.05

COALS.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—Small retail business passing. Quotations are:—
Cardiff \$19.00 to 20.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian 10.00 to 10.50 ex ship, ..
Miki Lump } 9.00 to 10.25 nominal
and Small ..
Moji Lump ... 8.00 to 9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double } 12.00 ex Godown
screened.....
Hongay Lump 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust.. 5.50 to —
Briquettes ... 10.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—
YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 8 at \$75, 2150 bales No. 10 at \$66 to \$86, 900 bales No. 12 at \$72.50 to \$86.50, 300 bales No. 16 at \$78 to \$94, 1,050 bales No. 10 at \$79 to \$90. Japanese Yarn—100 bales No. 10 at \$73.50 to arrive. Bengal Cotton—50 bales at \$16.50, 50 bales at \$17, 100 bales at \$16.50. Grey Shirtings.—300 pieces 8½ lbs. B Joss No. 2 at \$2.92. White Shirtings—250 pieces S O at \$4.15, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.37½, 250 pieces S. C. at \$4.15, 250 pieces X 7 at \$4.05, 250 pieces D. 70 at \$3.65. T-Cloths.—300 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.72½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.72½. Drills.—200 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock Chop at \$3.90. White Irishes.—250 pieces Gold Horse at \$4.50.

SHANGHAI, 30th December.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report. Piece Goods.—Broken into by the Christmas holidays the past week has not been a very exciting one in this trade to judge by the business reported, but from all accounts that does not fairly represent the true state of things. In fact there appears to have been quite a brisk enquiry. The number of those who are in a position to meet it, however, is limited, and Importers dislike to disclose what they are doing to their competitors, especially forward transactions. The demand appears to embrace all the standard makes of Manchester goods, with the exception of Drills and Sheetings, and where obtainable at anything like current rates, with the option of a couple of months clearance, there are ready operators. It suits the hooks of some to sell on those terms, especially with cargo afloat, but holders of spot goods are not always so willing to respond, without some compensation in the price to make up for the lower Exchange that has to be reckoned. The enquiry from Hankow has lasted and seems to be the chief sustaining power of the immediate trade, the Northern dealers naturally only buying for forward clearance at present, although it is not unlikely they will soon see the advantage of investing their money in cash purchases. Altogether the present year will close with a firm market, current prices as compared with the same time last year, not showing any very radical change. Although American makes have not taken a very prominent place in the business reported this week there has been considerable enquiry, but operations are checked by the higher prices quoted in the States, prices there having risen about sixpence per piece from the lowest point. The early buying for this market this season seems to have rather upset the calculations of Manufacturers, who are apparently unable to supply orders from other markets, and are actually trying to repurchase some of the goods sold to this. The s.s. Kenmore, that was supposed to have been wrecked in the Red Sea last October, arrived here yesterday. The quantity of Piece goods she was supposed to be carrying was greatly exaggerated, as she has only some 4,400,

bales fort this Port. There has been less doing in Indian Yarn during the week under review, but prices are firm for the higher count. Japanese Spinnings are steady, and fresh supplies are likely to be restricted by the advance in prices ruling in Japan and the more unfavourable Exchange with this. There is still considerable enquiry for Local Yarn and prices are improving. One of the Mills is reported to have sold its entire production for the four months ending 30th April, which is estimated at about 10,000 bales, but other Spinners decline to follow suit. Cotton is strong at last quotations, holders expecting a demand from the Mills.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 6th January.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 7/16
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/16
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/16
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/16
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/00

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.46½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.99½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
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Bank, on demand	146
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ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
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Bank, on demand	146
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ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72½
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Private, 30 days' sight	73½
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ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	5½ % pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	1½ % pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	¾ % pm.
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate ... 10.07

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 52.50

SHA GHAI, 31st December.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.—The Christmas holidays have interfered with business. Owing to the scarcity of ready cash, there is more inclination to buy shares on time than for cash. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were sold for cash at 242.50 per cent., and for delivery on 31st March at 250 per cent. premium. Bank of China and Japan shares, with £4 paid up, were placed at £10.00, equal to Tls. 7.30. National Bank of China shares have changed hands at \$17. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance shares have been sold at Tls. 180. Fire Insurance.—China Fire shares have changed hands at \$50. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 44. China Mutual S. N. Ordinary shares, with £5 paid up, were sold at Tls. 25. Sugars.—No local business reported. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Business was confined to Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 127.50, at which there are sellers. Shares in Boyd & Co. are wanted. Lan Is.—Shanghai Land Investment shares ranging from Tls. 11 to Tls. 15. Industrial.—EW Cotton Mill shares are offering at Tls. 70. International Cotton Mill shares were placed for March delivery at Tls. 81. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 90 and Tls. 95, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 62.50. Tug and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug boat shares are wanted at Tls. 191. Shanghai and Co-operative Cargo Boat shares are offering at Tls. 160 and Tls. 140 respectively. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 67.50 and Tls. 66. Shanghai-Lingkat Tobacco shares have been in demand, and business was done for each at Tls. 115 and Tls. 117.50, for March at Tls. 130, for April at Tls. 140, for May at Tls. 115, and for June at Tls. 155. Central Stores shares were sold at \$10. Loans.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 101.50.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 6th January.—There is very little demand for tonnage in all directions with the exception of Saigon. From that port to Hongkong a number of steamers have been fixed, and 15 cents per picul is now offered for prompt carriers. From Bangkok to this, there is no demand. Japan coal freights.—Moji to Hongkong the rate is nominally \$1.80 per ton; to Singapore \$3 per ton; Hongkong to this \$1.40. Steamers are wanted to load at Moron for Hongkong and Singapore. Sailing vessels—The American ship *S. D. Carlton* goes to Honolulu to load for New York, and the American ship *Paramita* to Singapore also to load for the above destination. A small vessel might be placed hence to New York at about 13s per ton of 41 cubic feet.

There are three vessels disengaged in port registering 5,851 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

S. D. Carlton—American ship, 1,788 tons, proceeds to Honolulu to load for New York.

Paramita—American ship, 1,494 tons, Singapore to New York, private terms.

Evie J. Ray—American bark, 919 tons, Singapore to Hongkong, \$3,500 in full.

Sultan—British steamer, 1,643 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3 per ton.

Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.90 per ton.

Shini Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,370 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.41 per ton.

Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 975 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.45 per ton.

Siegfried—German steamer, 909 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Dr. Hans Jay Kier—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong \$1.40 per ton.

A China Navigation Co. steamer, Hongkong to Swatow, \$1.80 per ton.

Ingraham—German steamer, 894 tons, five trips, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 17 cents per picul.

Katsuyama Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,087 tons, five trips, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 16 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Germany—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Mongkul—British steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Marie Jebsen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Propontis—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Deuterus—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Oslo—Norwegian steamer, 777 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Nord—Norwegian steamer, 767 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Knivsberg—German steamer, 647 tons, monthly, 2 months, \$4,500 per month.
Ingrahan—German steamer, 894 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$4,500 per month.
Nanyetsu Maru—Japanese steamer, 822 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$3,700 per month.
Hainan—German steamer, 741 tons, monthly, 8/1 months, \$5,000 per month.
Apennade—German steamer, 611 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$5,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH

For LONDON.—*Diomed* (str.), Japan (str.), *Paramatta* (str.), *Inaba Maru* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).
For MARSEILLE.—*Inaba Maru* (str.), *Salsas* (str.).
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sarnia* (str.), *Asturia* (str.), *Dorothea Rickmers* (str.).
For HAMBURG AND ANTWERP.—*Asturia* (str.).
For GENOA AND HAMBURG.—*Sibilia* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.), *America Maru* (str.), *Queen Margaret* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C., AND VACOMA.—*Glenogle* (str.).
For PORTLAND, O.—*Columbia* (str.).
For SAN DIEGO.—*Carlisle City* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Commonwealth* (str.), *Kensmore* (str.), *Mogul* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Tsinan* (str.).
For THURSDAY ISLAND.—*Tokio Maru* (str.).
For SEATTLE.—*Kinshiu Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December— ARRIVALS.

30. Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
30. Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
30. Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongkong.
30. Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
30. Wosang, British str., from Canton.
31. Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
31. Elphinstone, British str., from Kobe.
31. Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Manila.
31. Progress, German str., from Saigon.
31. Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
31. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
31. Euplectela, British str., from Batoum.
31. Tientsin, British str., from Canton.
31. Else, German str., from Hoihow.

January—

1. Taksang, British str., from Wuhu.
1. Shantung, British str., from S. Francisco.
1. Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
1. Peiyang, German str., from Shanghai.
1. Laes, French str., from Marseilles.
1. China, German str., from Saigon.
1. Dorothea Rickmers, German str., from Hamburg.
1. Donar, German str., from Port Louis.
2. Natuna, Danish str., from Bangkok.
2. Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
2. Denteros, German str., from Saigon.
2. Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
2. Kuivsberg, German str., from Hongkong.
2. Kaifong, British str., from Canton.
2. Lyemoon, German str., from Canton.
2. Esang, British str., from Canton.
2. Hakhoi, British str., from Canton.
3. Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
3. Benledi, British str., from London.
3. Sullberg, French str., from Haiphong.
3. Swatow, German str., from Moji.
3. Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
4. Heimun, British str., from Tamsui.
4. Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
4. Marie Jebsen, German str., from Moji.
4. Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
4. Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
4. Sibiria, German str., from Kobe.
4. Tantalus, British str., from Liverpool.
4. Tsinan, British str., from Moji.
4. Teuk-ni Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
4. Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
4. P. C. C. Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.

4. Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
4. Sultan, British str., from Moji.
4. Zweea, British str., from Samarang.
4. Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
4. America Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
5. Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
5. Parramatta, British str., from Shanghai.
5. Zafiro, Amr. transport, from Manila.
5. Taichiow, British str., from Tamsui.
5. Tenshin Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
5. Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
5. Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongkong.
5. Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
5. Kweiyang, British str., from Panarukan.
5. Szechuan, British str., from Yangtze.
6. Woosung, British str., from Canton.
6. Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.

December— DEPARTURES.

30. Rattler, British gunboat, for Manila.
31. Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
31. Activ, Norwegian str., for Rangoon.
31. Telena, British str., for Kobe.
31. Riojun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
31. Chingping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
31. Heidelberg, German str., for Hamburg.
31. Ariel, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
31. Wosang, British str., for Ningpo.
31. Hsin Fung, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
31. King Sing, British str., for Amoy.
31. Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
31. Bormida, Italian str., for Singapore.
31. Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
31. Ebani, British str., for Foochow.
31. Prosper, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
31. Polyphemus, British str., for London.
31. Elphinstone, British str., for Singapore.
31. Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.

January—

1. Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
1. Hanoi, French str., for Pakhoi.
1. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
2. Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
2. Taksang, British str., for Canton.
2. Laos, French str., for Shanghai.
2. Taifu, German str., for Swatow.
2. Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.
2. Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
2. Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Canton.
3. Evie J. Ray, Amr. bark, for Mantung.
3. Powerful, British cruiser, for Amoy.
3. Haipoong, British str., for Amoy.
3. Hainan, German str., for Shanghai.
3. Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
3. Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
3. Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
3. Esang, British str., for Swatow.
3. Ingrahan, German str., for Saigon.
3. Yungching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
4. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
4. Germania, German str., for Saigon.
4. Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
4. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
4. Reuce, Amr. ship, for New York.
4. Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
4. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
4. Kohinur, British str., for Calcutta.
4. Hoihao, French str., for Manila.
5. Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
5. Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
5. Dagmar, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
5. Else, German str., for Bangkok.
5. Haiphong, French str., for Saigon.
5. Edgar, British cruiser, for London.
5. Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
5. Phranang, British str., for Hoihow.
5. Dorothea Rickmers, Ger. str., for Y'hama.
5. Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
5. Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for London.
5. Siegfried, German str., for Foochow.
5. Sibiria, German str., for Hamburg.
5. Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
5. Dr. Hans Jurg Kier, Norwegian str., for Hongkong.

6. Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.

6. Szechuan, British str., for Canton.

6. Wingsang, British str., for Canton.

6. Euplectela, British str., for Shanghai.

6. Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.

6. Nanyang, German str., for Taiwanfoo.

6. Hermes, Norwegian str., for Hongkong.

6. Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.

6. Memnon, British str., for Shanghai.

6. Keongwai, British str., for Hoihow.

Printed and published by J. WARRENS SMITH, No.

29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.